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CONFIDENTIAL.

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PART I.

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

1843, 1844, 1845.

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CONFIDENTIAL.

PART I.

CORRESPONDENCE

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TABLE I.

CONFIDENTIAL

AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

CONFIDENTIAL

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CONFIDENTIAL

CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING

THE AFFAIRS OF SYRIA.

PART I.

No. 1.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 25.)

Foreign Office, February 15, 1843.

Sir,

I HAVE received from Colonel Rose a copy of his despatch to your Excellency No. 84, of the 31st of December, in which among other matters he alludes to an arrangement which seems to have been suddenly determined upon by the Turkish Government for separating the district of Djebail and its dependencies from the Government of the Lebanon.

I have to instruct your Excellency to state to the Porte, that Her Majesty's Government have learnt with much regret that at a moment when the Representatives of the Allied Powers had just succeeded in obtaining from the Porte for a portion of its Syrian subjects, the execution of engagements which policy no less than justice required that the Turkish Government should fulfil, a measure for the dismemberment of an important district from the Government of the Lebanon should have been wantonly adopted, which must necessarily tend to excite great discontent on the part of the Christians in Lebanon, while at the same time it is calculated to cast a doubt on the sincerity of the Porte in its recent negotiations with the Allied Powers.

This scheme was attempted by Nejjib Pasha, and by him even abandoned on the remonstrance of the British Consuls. The Porte has now reverted to it, and it is in the hope that your Excellency's remonstrance may be attended with the like good result that I have to instruct you to urge upon the Porte the injustice of separating so large a portion of its Christian subjects from that jurisdiction to which they have for years been accustomed. If the Porte is sincerely desirous that tranquillity should prevail in Syria, it will hasten to remove one certain element of strife; if it feels the interference of foreign Powers in the internal affairs of Syria, as an evil from which it would gladly be relieved, it will cease to pursue a course which must inevitably lead to fresh interference.

Your Excellency may plainly state to the Porte, that Great Britain cannot be satisfied with mere delusive promises as regards the Christian population of Syria; that she will require not only the promise that they shall be governed as they have been of old, by rulers, of their own, but that such promise shall be fairly executed, and that the rulers appointed by the Porte from the Christians and from the Druses shall be persons calculated to govern the Lebanon districts with impartiality, and that they shall be supported in their office by the influence and power of the Sultan's chief authority in the country.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 27.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 1, 1842.

OUR late advices from Beyrout are by no means satisfactory, and there is too much reason to apprehend fresh troubles in Mount Lebanon, if the Turkish authorities continue to act with so little wisdom and good faith. The occurrences upon which this apprehension is founded, have doubtless been stated to your Lordship by the Consuls in Syria, and they are the more to be regretted as the transmission of the Porte's concession was followed, if not accompanied, by the submission of all the Druses and the complete restoration of tranquillity. The principal and most vexatious circumstance is the dismemberment of the Mountain, effected as it would seem by the express order of the Porte, and without any previous notice to me and my colleagues.

The detached portion of the Mountain which is placed under the immediate authority of a Turkish Pasha, contains a population of more than 30,000 souls, being all Maronites, with the exception of 2000 Greeks, 1600 Mutualis, and a few scattered Mahometans. Some further notion of the interests and feelings connected with the district may be derived from the accompanying memorial addressed to me by the agent of the Maronite Patriarch. The result of the arrangement is, that instead of Mount Lebanon being governed by an Emir for the Christians, and an Emir for the Druses, as promised by the Porte, the Mountain is now divided into three jurisdictions, and one very considerable and important section of it is administered by a Turk.

The fact is acknowledged by Sarim Effendi, and the only explanation I have heard of it is, that Djebail was farmed to the ex-Emir, and therefore revocable at pleasure. I am assured on the other hand that farmed or not, it was administered like the other parts of Mount Lebanon by the chief of the Shehab family for more than three quarters of a century, and that it was so administered when the Emir El-Kassim was sent up to Constantinople last year. In proof of this I inclose herewith a letter from Colonel Rose and Mr. Moore to Selim Pasha of Saida, written two years ago, when a similar project of dismemberment was entertained and subsequently dropped in silence.

The Representatives of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, met at my house this morning, and after considering the reports of the several Consuls, we came to an unanimous opinion that the separation of Djebail from the rest of Mount Lebanon was wholly at variance with the concession announced to us by Sarim Effendi on the 7th of December, and that we could not abstain from declaring this opinion to his Excellency, without a dereliction of our duty.

We talked over the question of limits, the apparent continuance of the Albanians in Syria, and several other points which appear from the reports of the Consuls to require more attention than they have yet received from the Porte; and we agreed to make them the objects of a subsequent representation to Sarim Effendi, conceiving that the more important question of Djebail would gain by being treated separately and first. In the instruction which pursuant to this agreement I propose to draw up for communication to the Porte, I shall be careful to confine myself in principle to the execution of Sarim Effendi's engagement disclaiming the idea of introducing any fresh matter of discussion.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

P.S.—For your Lordship's more complete information, I inclose a copy of a despatch from the Prussian Consul at Beyrout to the Chargé d'Affaires of his Government here. I am indebted to Count Pourtalès for the possession of this able and very clear statement.

S. C.

Memorial of the Maronite Agent.

APRES la scission en deux de l'antique principauté Chrétienne du Liban, après l'exclusion de ses anciens Princes dont le Gouvernement, quoiqu'on en ait pu dire, avait pourtant assuré aux habitants de ce pays des siècles de prospérité inconnue dans le reste de la Syrie, après une transaction qui avait imposé de si graves et pénibles sacrifices aux Chrétiens Libanais, ceux-ci, tout en réservant leurs droits, tâchaient cependant par déférence aux Puissances médiatrices de se résigner à un sort que des raisons de politique générale n'avaient pas permis de rendre meilleur. Mais toutes les concessions qu'on avait pu faire au préjudice de ces infortunés Chrétiens, ne suffisaient pas encore à satisfaire le fanatisme Musulman, qui sous de trompeuses apparences ne vise à rien moins qu'à faire disparaître du Liban la petite nation Chrétienne qui, forte de son innocence et de son bon droit, avait pu si longtemps au milieu de ses montagnes lui tenir tête en défendant avec succès ses libertés, sa religion, et son autonomie. En effet un firman de la Sublime Porte vient tout d'un coup de détacher du Liban un de ses plus importantes provinces, celle de Djebail avec ses dépendances, pour l'incorporer au Gouvernement du Pacha de Tripoli. Ainsi tout ce pays exclusivement Chrétien qui s'étend aux plus hautes cimes du Liban, avec la Vallée Sainte, berceau des Chrétiens Maronites, de ces Chrétiens qui seuls ont résisté avec succès en Syrie, dès les premiers temps de l'Islamisme, au torrent de l'invasion Musulmane; Canbîne, la résidence vénérée de leur Patriarche, les villages d'Edn et de Beheirra, ombragés par les cèdres où jamais les Turcs n'avaient pu parvenir, et d'où en dernier lieu encore les troupes Albanaïses de Mustafa Pacha avaient été victorieusement repoussées; en un mot, tous les lieux les plus chers et les plus vénérés des Chrétiens Libanais devaient d'après ce firman subir le gouvernement direct d'un Pacha. Si jamais cette nouvelle usurpation, aussi exorbitante qu'essentiellement contraire à l'arrangement même conclu dernièrement entre la Porte et les Représentants des Puissances médiatrices dans l'affaire Libanaise, pouvait être encore tolérée par elles, leur intervention viendrait à être entièrement frustrée, et il ne resterait plus aux Chrétiens du Liban qu'à choisir entre un effort désespéré pour défendre le berceau sacré de leur nation, se mettant en lutte ouverte avec les autorités de la Porte dans des circonstances les plus défavorables, ou bien émigrer de leur chère patrie qu'ils avaient su défendre en de meilleurs temps. Ce pauvre peuple ne pourrait toutefois supposer que l'intervention des Grandes Puissances Chrétiennes en Syrie doit se terminer par le forcer à une si triste alternative, ou puisse avoir pour seul résultat le triomphe de l'Islamisme dans le Liban. Ils pensent que si des considérations politiques n'ont pas permis à ces Puissances de soustraire les lieux saints de la Palestine des mains des infidèles, il ne peut y en avoir d'admissibles pour permettre que les Turcs se servent des conséquences de leur intervention pour enlever tout ce qui était resté dans les mains des Chrétiens Libanais avant cette intervention. Ces Chrétiens aiment au contraire à espérer qu'elles ne souffriront pas une odieuse usurpation faite au mépris d'engagements formels.

Dans cet espoir l'humble Soussigné ose de nouveau élever la voix au nom de ses compatriotes infortunés auprès des illustres Représentants de la Chrétienté, en les suppliant d'intervenir auprès de la Sublime Porte afin que l'ordre donné pour l'incorporation de la province ci-dessus mentionnée au Pacha de Tripoli soit promptement révoqué, et de mettre sous la juridiction immédiate du chef des Chrétiens du Liban tous les Chrétiens qui sont répandus en divers sens de la Montagne. Vous lui pardonnerez s'il persiste encore que la Montagne ne sera pacifiée à moins qu'on n'en confie le Gouvernement à un Prince de la famille Chehab.

Sans ces mesures tous ces infortunés succomberont infailliblement aux nouveaux malheurs dont ils sont menacés.

Le Soussigné, &c.,

(Signé)

D. NICOLAS MURAD.

Pera, le 29 Janvier, 1843.

Inclosure 2 in No. 2.

Colonel Rose and Mr. Consul Moore to the Seraskier Selim Pasha.

Excellency,

Beyroul, July 16, 1841.

YOUR Excellency has already been apprized by Captain Arbuthnot, at the desire of Colonel Rose, of the contents of a letter which Mr. Moore had received from his Excellency the Emir Beshir acquainting him that Yousseuf Pasha of Tripoli had intimated to him that in virtue of a decision emanating from Nejib Pasha of Damascus, the district of Djebail was henceforward to be detached from the jurisdiction of the Emir, and placed under that of the Pasha of Tripoli; and that the Emir Beshir had in consequence remonstrated in the strongest manner against that decision, and appealed to British authority against its being carried into execution.

The Emir Beshir adduces the following objections to the decision in question:—

First. Because the firman from His Highness the Sultan confirmed to him the same jurisdiction and privileges as those enjoyed by his predecessors.

Secondly. Because the district of Djebail has been under the government of the Emirs of Lebanon from a most ancient date; and

Lastly. Because the servants of the British Government in Syria, at the period of the breaking out of the revolt, assured his Excellency that he should possess the same authority and extent of dominions as the ex-Emir did, upon the faith of which assurance he embraced the cause of the Sultan.

Not doubting that your Excellency will concur with us in our opinion as to the breach of faith and injustice of thus dispossessing the Emir Beshir of rights guaranteed to him by His Imperial Highness's firman and by the solemn pledge of Her Majesty's servants, which latter circumstance has induced us to address your Excellency on the subject, we respectfully solicit your Excellency to be pleased to take such steps as you may consider necessary for preventing the dismemberment of the Emir Beshir's dominions.

We have, &c.,
(Signed)

HUGH ROSE.
N. MOORE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 2.

Extract of a Report from the Prussian Consul-General in Syria.

Beyroul, le 2 Janvier, 1843.

APRES la réception des dernières nouvelles de Constantinople je me rendis avec M. d'Adelbourg chez Assaad Pacha, qui nous dit qu'il comptait sur notre coopération sincère ainsi que sur celle de nos collègues.

Mon collègue et moi nous adressâmes les cinq questions suivantes au Pacha, afin de pouvoir informer nos Gouvernements respectifs de l'état actuel de la Montagne.

1°. Les deux Kaimacans ont-ils été nommés et quels sont-ils?

2°. Comment exerceront-ils leur autorité; la nationalité et la religion formeront-elles la ligne de démarcation, ou celle-ci serait-elle géographique?

3°. Quelle sera la ligne de démarcation entre les deux? Est-il en outre vrai qu'on veuille en distraire toute une moitié du Liban, le Blad, Djebail, pour le soumettre au Pacha de Tripoli?

4°. Laissera-t-on des troupes dans les portions de la Montagne qui doivent recevoir une administration indépendante.

5°. Au cas où des différends s'élèveraient entre des chefs ou des membres des deux nations, quelle sera la dernière instance?

Assaad Pacha répondit amicalement,—

Ad 1. Qu'il avait nommé Haidar de Solima chef des Maronites; quant

aux Druses il avait commencé par réunir tous les chefs de cette nation actuellement prisonniers à Beyroul; que sur leur observation que les trois familles principales, Dijablat, Ahmed, et Abouneked, étaient trop jalouses l'une de l'autre pour réunir les suffrages, il avait choisi parmi les deux candidats qui avaient réuni le plus de voix, l'Emir Ahmed: que Haidar et Ahmed avaient fait dépendre leur acceptation de certaines conditions que le Pacha nous ferait connaître plus tard.

Ad 2. Que quant à tirer une ligne de démarcation géographique, cela était impossible, vu que les populations Chrétiennes étaient mélangées avec les Druses; que cette ligne dépendait en conséquence de la nationalité.

Ad 3. Que la fixation de cette ligne avait eu lieu à Constantinople; que Djebail avait à la vérité depuis cinquante-trois ans fait partie du territoire gouverné par le Prince de la Montagne, mais que Djebail avait été affermé à l'Emir Yousseuf, père du dernier Emir, par le Pacha de Tripoli; qu'en conséquence ce territoire ne pourrait faire partie du domaine des chefs Chrétiens.

Ad 4. Qu'un petit nombre des troupes Turques resterait dans la Montagne, que toutefois elles ne seraient employées que sur son [d'Assaad] ordre exprès, et seulement au cas où un des Kaimacans demanderait leurs secours.

Ad 5. Que dans tous les différends lui [Assaad] formerait la dernière instance.

Assaad Pacha ajouta encore qu'il attendait de nouvelles instructions pour les détails, et qu'il prévoyait beaucoup de difficultés. Il dit qu'entr'autres, il avait appris positivement que les Grecs étaient décidés à ne pas se soumettre à un Prince Catholique, mais plutôt à un Druse.

Voici mes réflexions sur les cinq réponses du Pacha.

Ad 1. Le choix des individus a été parfaitement sage. Je n'en dirai pas autant de la manière dont ce choix a été fait, surtout pour les Druses.

Ad 2. Assaad Pacha a parfaitement raison de dire qu'il n'est pas possible de tracer une ligne de démarcation géographique à cause du mélange des populations.

Ad 3. Cette partie de la réponse du Pacha paraît indiquer que les Puissances ont entièrement abandonné à la Porte la fixation de la frontière.

Enlever à l'Emir Chrétien la moitié de son territoire, ses provinces les plus riches et les plus belliqueuses, après que les Chrétiens, par leur attitude paisible, s'étaient rendus dignes de la protection que leur ont accordé les Puissances, c'est rendre tout-à-fait illusoire les dernières mesures arrêtées à Constantinople.

Je ne trouve également aucune objection à faire ad 4 et ad 5, si ce n'est que ce que le Pacha a dit par rapport aux Grecs est parfaitement juste; mais leur nombre est très restreint pour pouvoir entrer en ligne de compte.

Cependant la Porte ayant déclaré par la note de Sarim Effendi, qu'elle ne regarde les mesures qui lui ont été recommandées par les Cinq Puissances, que comme un essai, il est facile aujourd'hui de s'expliquer sa politique. Le moyen le plus sûr pour cela, c'est de créer de nouvelles difficultés et d'ouvrir la voie aux vues divergentes des partis de la Montagne.

A peine rentré chez moi, je reçus un message du Pacha qui invitait les Consuls des Cinq Puissances à une conférence. Le Consul Russe, indisposé depuis quelques jours, ne put point prendre part. Omer Pacha était chargé de nous communiquer les difficultés élevées par les chefs Druses et Maronites, et de nous demander au nom d'Assaad Pacha, si nous ne préférons de suspendre la nomination des deux Kaimacans jusqu'à la réception de nouvelles instructions. Les deux documents ci joints sont une triste preuve du désaccord qui règne entre les deux populations.

Le piège que nous tendait Assaad Pacha était par trop apparent; son but était de représenter à son Gouvernement avec le concours des Consuls, que le plan que les Cinq Puissances avaient proposé pour la pacification de la Syrie, était impraticable, afin que la Porte pût avoir le droit de considérer l'essai qui en avait été fait comme infructueux. Notre réponse unanime au Pacha fut que nous ne saurions approuver que l'exécution de la volonté du Sultan, qui est aussi celle de nos Souverains, pût être suspendue par les difficultés élevées par les deux Emirs; que la mesure en question était définitive, quoi qu'il y eût encore beaucoup de modification à introduire pour pouvoir l'exécuter; que le Pacha devait en conséquence nommer les deux Princes et faire

ensuite à la Porte les propositions qu'il jugera convenables; que si après le vingt-quatre heures de réflexion Haidar et Ahmed hésiteraient à accepter implicitement la dignité qui leur était conférée, le Pacha devait faire un nouveau choix parmi les principaux des deux nations; qu'immédiatement après cette nouvelle nomination il pourrait publier une proclamation dans laquelle il déclarerait que la mesure qui lui était prescrite par son Gouvernement, était incomplète dans ses détails, mais que tout essai de s'opposer à sa mise à exécution serait considérée comme haute trahison.

Je ne me permets point encore de jugement sur l'impression qu'ont produit ici les dernières nouvelles de Constantinople. Ce qu'il y a de positif, c'est que l'exclusion des Chéahs mécontente les Chrétiens, et que le bruit qui s'est déjà répandu dans le public que la Porte avait l'intention d'enlever à la juridiction de l'Emir Maronite le district de Djebail, a produit une grande inquiétude.

P.S.—Les Kaimacanis ne sont pas nommés.

No. 3.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 17.)

(No. 32.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 20, 1843.

I HAVE found it necessary to join with the Representatives of Austria, France, Prussia and Russia, in making a fresh representation to the Turkish Government on the subject of Mount Lebanon and its administration. In the performance of this duty I have been careful not to open any new question and to confine myself strictly to the execution of what was promised in Sarim Effendi's letter of the 7th of December.

The principal object of our exertions was to prevent a dismemberment of the Mountain, as threatened by the apparent intention of placing the important district of Djebail under the immediate government of the Pasha of Tripoli.

We had also to call the attention of the Porte to much that is deficient in the means employed by Assaad Pasha for the establishment of the Sheiks whom he has appointed respectively to govern the two divisions of Mount Lebanon.

We agreed to pursue the former and more prominent object by means of written instructions addressed to our several interpreters, and to reserve the remaining points for a verbal communication.

Inclosed herewith are copies of the instructions which will be found to contain the substance of our information respecting Djebail, and the grounds of our application for its continued connection with the administration of the Mountain, as settled by Sarim Effendi's letter. The provisional answer given by that Minister is consigned to the reports of which copies are also transmitted herewith for the information of Her Majesty's Government.

With respect to the other points, I have obtained from Sarim Effendi an assurance that the requisite pecuniary means as well as suitable instructions will be given to the Druse and Maronite Emirs; but his Excellency is still waiting for despatches from Assaad Pasha, and till they arrive it would be useless to press for a more definite and satisfactory answer.

An official decision relative to Djebail is also deferred on the same plea, but I am authorized by Sarim Effendi confidentially to state that the intention of the Porte is to place that district under the administration of the Maronite Emir as heretofore, with the sole difference between it and other parts of Mount Lebanon that the tribute collected from Djebail will be held in farm by the Emir, and his annual payment on account of it be assigned to the Pasha of Tripoli.

The effect of this arrangement will be some addition of revenue to the Turkish authorities, and consequently some additional burthen, though I trust not an important one, to the Christian inhabitants. The justification of it rests on ancient practice, which however is not clearly established in all its particulars up to the latest period of the Emir Beshir's government. Still I am not disposed to attach any great importance to this part of the question.

On the whole there is reason to believe that whatever the Porte may have intended, the matter will eventually be settled agreeably to the just claims of the Christian Powers, and that we have rather to apprehend the local elements of disorder as causes of fresh disturbance, than any inclination of the Porte to place herself again in open opposition to the declared expectation of Europe.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 3.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. F. Pisani.

Monsieur,

Péra, ce 4 Février, 1843.

AU moment où je me livrais à la conviction que la résolution bienfaisante annoncée le 7 Décembre par Sarim Effendi aux Représentans des Cinq Puissances, produisait dans toute l'étendue du Mont Liban l'effet salutaire que Sa Hautesse s'était proposée, les Consuls à Beyrouth mandèrent que les autorités Ottomanes n'entendaient pas l'appliquer à l'arrondissement du Djebail, et que ce pays au contraire devait être placé sous la juridiction immédiate du Pacha de Tripoli.

Il me répugne de supposer que la Porte voudrait encourir la responsabilité de confirmer la disposition faite par ses fonctionnaires en Syrie, et de justifier ainsi l'inquiétude dangereuse qui commence de nouveau à y gagner les esprits.

Le pays du Djebail est composé de sept districts renfermés dans l'enceinte de la Montagne. Il était administré par les Emirs de la famille Shehab depuis bien des années. Il faisait partie de leur Gouvernement lors de l'installation de l'ex-Emir Béchir Kassim. Il en faisait également partie à l'époque où cet Emir cessait de le gouverner, c'est à dire, à celle où les Représentans des Cinq Puissances réclamaient déjà la restitution des anciens privilèges du Mont Liban.

L'ensemble de ces circonstances ne laisse aucun doute sur l'impression fâcheuse qui doit être produite par une mesure si évidemment opposée aux vœux et aux conseils des Cinq Cours, et même au sens qu'elles ont dû attacher à la lettre de Sarim Effendi.

J'aime à croire, Monsieur, que les paroles de son Excellence dissiperont l'incertitude qui vient d'être jetée si inopinément sur les véritables intentions de la Porte. Vous lui ferez la lecture de cette instruction un moment plutôt. Vous êtes autorisé à lui en livrer une copie. Vous recueillerez avec soin les explications que son Excellence vous donnera, et que mes collègues non moins que moi attendent de sa part. Nous nous renfermons dans le cercle déjà tracé. Nous demandons l'exécution franche et complète d'une promesse qui nous a été faite dans les formes officielles. Que le Mont Liban ne soit pas démembré, que sa population entière soit placée sous l'administration d'un Druse et d'un Chrétien, voilà de quoi il s'agit, et je ne veux pas douter que l'explication de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ne réponde à l'attente des Cours et que des ordres conformes à notre demande ne soient envoyés sans délai à Assaad Pacha.

Je suis, &c.,

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 3.

M. de Bouténéff to the Chief Dragoman, Prince Handjery.

Le 11 février, 1843.

LA lettre officielle que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'avait adressée en date du 7 Décembre, annonçait la décision adoptée par la Sublime Porte de déférer aux conseils des Cinq Puissances Amies et d'accorder aux populations du Mont Liban une administration indigène avec les chefs choisis dans leur sein et professant leur croyance, nommément un chef Chrétien pour les Maronites et un chef Druse pour les Druses.

En accueillant avec une juste satisfaction cette communication officielle,

j'avais à peine eu le tems de la porter à la connaissance de mon Gouvernement lorsque j'appris par les rapports du Consul de Russie à Beyrouth, en même tems que MM. mes collègues en furent informés par leurs agens, que tout l'arrondissement de Djebail, composé de sept districts du Liban et contenant une population de 30,000 à 40,000 Maronites, vient d'être subitement détaché par Assaad Pacha et placé sous la juridiction immédiate du Pachalik de Tripoli.

Un fait aussi grave et inattendu que le démembrement de ces districts du Liban et d'une partie aussi considérable de la population Chrétienne, pour la soumettre à la juridiction d'un délégué Musulman du Pacha de Tripoli, ne pouvait que me faire éprouver le sentiment de la plus pénible surprise. Car ce démembrement est tellement contradictoire avec la décision annoncée le 7 Décembre et avec le principe fondamental sur lequel elle repose, savoir, celui de faire administrer les populations Maronites par un chef Maronite, et les Druses par un chef Druse, qu'en d'autres termes on ne saurait le considérer que comme le renversement de la base de l'arrangement tel qu'il avait été proposé par la Porte, préalablement admis par les Cinq Représentans, et porté à la connaissance de nos Augustes Cours.

En conséquence et d'un commun accord avec MM. les Représentans d'Angleterre, de France, d'Autriche et de Prusse, je vous engage, mon Prince, à faire apprécier à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères toute l'évidence et la gravité des observations qui précèdent.

Vous lui ferez connaître en même tems qu'en se rapportant ainsi à la teneur de la communication officielle du 7 Décembre, il est permis d'attendre, et je me crois au besoin autorisé à demander que la Sublime Porte veuille bien envoyer les ordres nécessaires à Assaad Pacha pour la révocation immédiate de la mesure relative au démembrement des susdits districts du Liban, ainsi que pour la réintégration des populations Chrétiennes qui l'habitent sous la juridiction du chef Maronite.

J'aime à espérer que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères ne se refusera pas à accueillir une demande aussi bien fondée, et que de son côté la Sublime Porte adoptera les mesures propres à en assurer l'accomplissement. S'il en était autrement, il nous serait pénible à MM. mes collègues et à moi, de nous trouver dans la fâcheuse nécessité d'avoir à annoncer à nos Cours que le mode d'arrangement adopté par la Sublime Porte pour la question du Mont Liban et qui venait à peine d'être porté à leur connaissance, vient d'être inopinément renversé au moment même où il était question de le mettre à exécution.

Vous voudrez bien laisser à son Excellence copie de la présente et me faire ensuite connaître par écrit sa réponse sur l'objet de ma démarche.

(Signé) BOUTENEFF.

Inclosure 3 in No. 3.

M. de Bourqueney to M. Cor.

Monsieur,

Péra, 4 Février, 1843.

VOUS voudrez bien vous rendre chez son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, pour lui faire la communication suivante.

Il résulte des rapports unanimes adressés de Beyrouth par les Consuls Européens à leurs Missions respectives à Constantinople, qu'une vaste portion du Liban aurait été détachée du territoire confié à l'administration de l'Emir Haidar. Le Djebail, comprenant les districts de Fetah, Djebail, Akoura, Djebail, Batroun, Bécharé et Kouri, presque exclusivement habité par les Maronites, serait soumis à la juridiction directe d'un officier Musulman.

Une pareille mesure est en contradiction si évidente avec le texte et l'esprit de la note que son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser ainsi qu'à mes collègues le 7 Décembre, 1842, qu'il suffira de la porter à la connaissance du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse pour qu'il s'empresse d'en arrêter l'exécution.

Vous rappellerez à son Excellence Sarim Effendi avec quel empressement les Cinq Représentans ont adhéré au nom de leurs Cours à la résolution notifiée par la note du 7 Décembre. Le Gouvernement du Roi a déjà ratifié de sa haute

sanction l'adhésion de son Ministre à Constantinople, mais la ratification de mon Gouvernement reposait toute entière sur la confiance où il était et où je suis encore, que les mesures annoncées par la Sublime Porte seront sincèrement, scrupuleusement exécutées.

Dans sa paternelle sollicitude pour la prospérité de toutes les classes de ses sujets, Sa Hautesse a étendu à tous les habitans du Liban le bienfait d'une administration indigène. Le démembrement de la Montagne annulerait ces nobles et généreuses intentions, et les Représentans des Cinq Cours forcés d'y reconnaître une violation manifeste de l'esprit et du texte du document officiel qui leur annonça les mesures adoptées par la Sublime Porte conformément aux conseils des Puissances Alliées, renonceraient douloureusement à l'espoir qu'ils entretenaient de voir à jamais terminés les longs et pénibles débats auxquels les affaires du Liban ont donné lieu dans tous le cours de l'année 1842. Les Ministres de Sa Hautesse ont eux-mêmes apprécié à sa haute valeur le rétablissement de l'harmonie entre la Sublime Porte et les Cours Alliées sur les bases également conformes aux intérêts de la politique et de l'humanité. Il n'entrera jamais dans leur pensée de ruiner de leurs propres mains une œuvre si heureusement accomplie.

Les considérations qui précèdent m'autorisent à exprimer le vœu et à formuler la demande que la Sublime Porte veuille bien adresser au Pacha de Sayda les ordres nécessaires à la révocation de la mesure qui a séparé le Djebail du territoire soumis à l'administration directe de l'Emir Haidar, et consigner ainsi dans toute la Montagne l'application du principe irrévocablement acquis à tous ses habitans, de l'administration des deux populations Maronite et Druse par deux chefs de même race et de même religion.

Vous êtes autorisé à laisser la présente instruction dans les mains de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

Agréé, &c.,
(Signé) BOURQUENEY.

Inclosure 4 in No. 3.

M. de Kletzel to Baron de Testa.

4 Février, 1843.

VEUILLEZ bien, M. le Baron, vous rendre chez son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et lui faire en mon nom la communication suivante :

C'est avec une surprise mêlée de regrets que j'ai appris par les rapports du Consul-Général de Sa Majesté l'Empereur en Syrie, qu'Assaad Pacha en appelant l'Emir Haidar aux fonctions de chef de la nation Maronite, a démembre une portion considérable du Liban presque entièrement habitée par cette nation et connue sous la dénomination générale de Djebail, pour l'incorporer au Pachalik de Tripoli, et la faire gouverner par un fonctionnaire Musulman. Le dit territoire comprendrait les districts de Fetah, Djebail, Akoura, et Kouri, et formerait environ un tiers de la Montagne habitée par les Chrétiens.

Par suite d'une entente qui a eu lieu entre les Représentans des Cinq Grandes Puissances, je suis dans le cas de déclarer à la Sublime Porte que nous regardons ce démembrement comme étant en contradiction manifeste avec la promesse consignée dans la lettre de M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères en date du 7 Décembre, ainsi qu'avec le principe fondamental du mode de Gouvernement qui nous a été annoncé et en vertu duquel les Maronites doivent être administrés par un chef de leur nation et de leur religion, de même que les Druses doivent l'être par un chef choisi dans leur sein.

Je ne puis, par conséquent, que m'unir à mes collègues pour demander au Ministère de Sa Hautesse qu'il veuille bien adresser le plutôt possible des ordres à Assaad Pacha, afin d'assurer par la révocation de la mesure susmentionnée, l'accomplissement des engagements que la Sublime Porte a pris envers les Cinq Puissances.

Vous êtes autorisé, M. le Baron, de laisser à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères copie de la présente instruction.

(Signé) KLETZL.

Inclosure 5 in No. 3

Caunt Pourtalès to M. Stiepanowich

Monsieur,

3 Février, 1843.

L'ADHESION de la Sublime Porte aux vœux bienveillants des Cinq Puissances, et la sage condescendance qu'elle avait montrée en paraissant se conformer à leurs conseils désintéressés, semblaient donner une solution définitive à la question du Mont Liban, et mon prédécesseur ainsi que ses collègues avaient cru pouvoir se livrer à l'espoir que le Gouvernement Ottoman, en se tenant scrupuleusement au sens de la note de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, en date du 7 Décembre dernier, acquiescerait ainsi de nouveaux droits à l'amitié de ses alliés et à la reconnaissance du peuple objet de leur commune sollicitude.

Les dernières nouvelles parvenues de Syrie à la Légation du Roi, ainsi qu'à celles de l'Autriche, de France, de la Grande Bretagne, et de la Russie, loin de les confirmer dans cette opinion, sont de nature à inspirer des craintes fondées sur l'effet que doit produire l'exécution incomplète et illusoire des engagements que la Porte avait pris par la note précitée envers les Cinq Puissances.

Je crois devoir me borner aujourd'hui à appeler l'attention la plus sérieuse du Gouvernement Ottoman sur un fait dont il semble reconnaître la gravité, et qui a dû me paraître ainsi qu'à mes collègues, en contradiction manifeste avec la lettre de son Excellence Sarim Effendi. La Province de Djebail, composée des districts d'el-Férah, d'Akoura, de Djebail, d'el-Batroun, de Becharé, d'el-Toka, et d'El-Kouri, qui contient une population de plus de 40,000 Maronites, où reside le Patriarche de cette nation, et dont les habitants furent les premiers parmi ceux de la Syrie à prendre les armes pour la défense des droits de leur Souverain légitime contre l'usurpation du Pacha d'Égypte, — cette province qui par son attitude paisible et soumise dans les derniers temps a acquis de nouveaux droits à la sollicitude paternelle de Sa Hautesse et à l'intérêt bienveillant des Cours amies de la Porte, et qui depuis près d'un siècle était administrée par le Prince de la Montagne, — cette province vient d'être élevée à la juridiction du nouveau chef Chrétien et réunie au Pachalik de Tripoli.

Le Gouvernement du Roi verrait avec une surprise pénible qu'une portion considérable de la population du Liban fût soustraite à l'administration du Prince Maronite. Il verrait, je ne saurais douter, dans cette mesure une contravention affligeante aux engagements que la Porte a pris envers ses alliés. J'espère donc, ainsi que mes collègues, que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse mieux éclairé sur la gravité de la séparation du Djebail de la partie du Liban confiée à l'administration de l'Emir Chrétien, prendra en considération nos représentations unanimes, et renoncera à une mesure qui, je le répète, serait contraire au sens de la note du 7 Décembre dernier, et qui, loin de contribuer au rétablissement de l'ordre et de la tranquillité en Syrie, manquerait évidemment à l'accomplissement des vœux des Cinq Puissances et des conseils qu'elles n'ont cessé de donner à la Porte dans son propre intérêt et dans celui de l'humanité.

Vous voudrez bien, Monsieur, après avoir porté à la connaissance de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères, la présente instruction, m'en remettre une copie.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) A. POURTALÈS.

Inclosure 6 in No. 3.

M. P. Pean to Sir Stratford Canning.

Excellence,

Péra, ce 4 Février, 1843

J'ai l'honneur de vous informer que conformément à vos ordres je viens de communiquer et de lire à Sarim Effendi les instructions de votre Excellence en date d'aujourd'hui, et qu'après en avoir entendu la lecture, le Ministre m'a dit

" Dans ma lettre à MM. les Représentans je parle du Mont Liban compris dans le Pachalik de Saïda. Or, Djebail a toujours été une dépendance de Tripoli, dont le Pacha l'affirme. Le vieux Emir Béchir a pendant de longues années été dans l'usage de prendre Djebail à ferme, et pour lequel il payait annuellement une redevance indépendamment du tribut qu'il payait pour le Mont Liban, et il en recevait tous les ans l'investiture. Quoiqu'il en soit je ne puis pour le présent faire aucune réponse sur cette question, car il est de toute nécessité qu'au paravant la Porte reçoive à cet égard le rapport d'Assaad Pacha. Son Excellence n'a encore rien écrit sur cette question : il ne nous a pas même fait savoir le choix des deux chefs Maronite et Druse; et ce que nous en savons c'est de MM. les Représentans. Mais Assaad Pacha ne pourra plus tarder à nous écrire sur les affaires de la Syrie, et aussitôt que nous aurons reçu des dépêches de sa part nous verrons ce qu'il y aura à faire."

J'ai l'honneur, &c.
(Signé) FRED. PISANI.

Inclosure 7 in No. 3

Prince Handjery to M. de Bouténéff

M. le Baron,

Péra, 1843

JE me suis empressé de porter à la connaissance de Sarim Effendi le contenu de l'instruction qui m'a été adressée en date du 22 Janvier de ce mois, sub No. 72, relativement à la mesure adoptée par Assaad Pacha de détacher l'arrondissement de Djebail du reste de la Montagne pour le placer sous la juridiction d'un délégué Musulman du Pacha de Tripoli, et je n'ai pas manqué de lui laisser copie de cette instruction.

Le Ministre m'a dit que la Porte n'avait pas reçu jusqu'aujourd'hui aucun rapport d'Assaad Pacha à cet égard et qu'elle en attendait incessamment pour savoir à quoi s'en tenir.

Que ce qu'elle savait là-dessus elle le tenait des rapports des Agens Consulaires des Puissances amies que MM. les Représentans ont bien voulu lui communiquer.

Qu'elle devait par conséquent attendre les rapports d'Assaad Pacha sur cette question, mais qu'en attendant ce que lui (Sarim) pourrait dire positivement c'était que l'arrondissement de Djebail a fait de tout temps partie du Pachalik de Tripoli, qu'en effet Emir Béchir et plus tard Emir El-Kasim en ont eu l'administration, mais toujours à titre de Moukata relevant du Pachalik de Tripoli, qui leur était conféré séparément et dont les redevances étaient payées à part.

Que ce fait pouvait même être constaté auprès de ces deux anciens Emirs qui se trouvent à Constantinople.

Que par conséquent la ré-incorporation de Djebail au Pachalik de Tripoli était un fait qui devait avoir lieu naturellement, parcequ'il s'agissait de rétablir le rétablissement de l'ancien ordre de choses.

Que cette mesure ne pourrait pas être considérée comme contradictoire avec la décision annoncée le 7 Décembre, parceque dans la lettre de cette date il n'a été question que des districts relevant du Pachalik de Saïda.

Que si maintenant on voulait que le dit arrondissement fût de nouveau placé sous l'administration du chef Maronite, ce serait une autre question mais que dans tous les cas cela ne pourrait se faire qu'à titre de moukata comme cela s'est pratiqué envers les deux anciens Emirs précités, et dans le cas où le nouveau chef demanderait à prendre ce moukata.

Que d'ailleurs en l'absence des rapports d'Assaad Pacha, la Porte ne saurait former une opinion exacte sur tout cela; qu'elle les attendait sous peu pour s'éclairer sur cette matière, et qu'alors Sarim s'empreserait de venir au devant de MM. les Représentans pour s'expliquer avec eux à cet égard et donner une réponse aux instructions qu'ils ont adressées là-dessus.

(Signé) J. HANDJERY

Inclosure 5 in No. 3

M. Cor to M de Bourcennes

Monsieur le Baron.

Péra, le 4 Février, 1843

APRÈS avoir reçu l'instruction de votre Excellence en date de ce jour je me suis rendu à la Porte auprès du Ministre des Affaires Etrangères pour lui en donner connaissance.

Sarim Effendi m'a répondu qu'il en connaissait déjà l'objet et qu'il ne croyait pas qu'il y ait eu lieu pour les Représentants des Cinq Puissances de faire cette démarche. Il a ajouté, quand vous lui avez fait sa première lettre, que cette affaire de la séparation du district du Djebel je vous ai répondu que nous n'avions pas encore reçu de réponse d'Assaad Pacha à cet égard, que toujours le district du Djebel avait formé une ferme (moukata) séparée. Or à quelques jours nous aurions été à deux d'ententes et nous aurions avancé il y a quelque temps la solution de la question. Ne voyez pas dans ce que je vous dis une fin de non-recevoir; je veux seulement vous montrer que la démarche d'aujourd'hui n'était pas nécessaire pour la solution de la question. Je lui ai posé votre note et il m'a dit qu'il se rendrait au quartier de la Porte. Je l'ai reprise alors, et me suis rendu auprès de ce dernier fonctionnaire auquel je l'ai remise.

Je suis, &c.
(Signé) J. COR

Enclosure 9 in No. 3

M Stepanovich to Count Pourtales

M le Conte.

4 Février, 1843.

4 Février, 1843.
JE me suis rendu ce matin à la Porte, et j'ai porté à la connaissance de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères le contenu de l'instruction que vous m'avez faite adresser le 27 Janvier, date d'aujourd'hui. Sa Excellence a répondu : —

[illegible]

Enclosure 10 in No. 2

Haron de Teles to M. de Kattel

7 Février, 1842.

J'ai communiqué et remis hier à Sarim Effendi l'instruction dont vous m'avez fourni. Monsieur en doit être satisfait. Relativement à la proposition qu'Assand Pacha vient d'établir dans le Mont Liban.

M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères m'a répondu en ces termes : "Jusqu'ici nous n'avons pas d'éléments de renseignements."

" Jusqu'ici nous n'avons reçu d'Assaad Pacha aucun rapport sur l'état de son territoire. Cependant, nous sommes informés par les officiers de l'armée, que pendant ces derniers temps du Pachalik de Tripoli, en sorte que les Princes de la Montagne. C'est ainsi

de moukatsa du dernier Gouverneur de Tripoli, Abdoullah Pacha. L'administration séparée de ce district n'aurait donc rien de surprenant. Mais si Assaad avait réellement et de son chef détaché du Mont Liban d'autres portions de territoire plus ou moins considérables, la Sublime Porte n'hésiterait pas à y porter remède, car elle ne lui a jamais donné aucun ordre à ce sujet. Pour le moment il faut que nous attendions les rapports qu'Assaad Pacha lui-même ne tardera sans doute pas à nous adresser."

(Signé) **TESTA**

No. 4

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 24.)

(No. 41. Confidential)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 2, 1843

HAVING occasion to see the Reis Effendi at an early hour this morning, I found him occupied with the consideration of despatches lately received from Syria. His Excellency informed me that Asnad Pasha had applied for instructions on several important points connected with the administration of Mount Lebanon, and he expressed a wish to ascertain my opinion before the Council decided in what manner to frame its reply. This led to a conversation of some length, in the course of which Sarim Effendi declared that it was the intention of the Porte to carry into effect fairly and fully the plan already announced, and that as soon as the instructions to Asnad Pasha were settled, a written communication would be made to the Representatives of the Five Powers in the form of a letter, through the chief interpreter of the Porte.

The great difficulty according to Assaad Pasha lies in making a satisfactory division of the Maronites and the Druses. The Emir of the Maronites is unwilling to leave any individual of his own religion under the Government of the Druses. The Emir of the Druses is equally tenacious of his authority over the whole of his nation. The Antiochian Greeks and the Papal Catholics are unwilling to submit to the authority either of the Druse or of the Maronite Emir. After some discussion in which I endeavoured to set the matter on right principles, it was agreed that the least objectionable mode of proceeding would be to draw a geographical line between the respective masses of the Druse and Maronite population, and to appoint in those subdivisions of each district where an extraneous population predominated, a municipal officer professing the same religion as the majority of the inhabitants, and to allow the whole of them to maintain an agent at the residence of the Emir under whose superintending authority they were placed. It appeared to Sarim Effendi as well as to myself, that the same kind of arrangement might be adopted in favour of the Greeks and Catholics, supposing them not to object to the expense of maintaining their respective agents.

With respect to the district of Djebel which Assaad Pasha intended to unite with the immediate jurisdiction of Tripoli, I was assured by Sarim Pasha that no such idea was entertained by the Porte. The whole of that district is to be placed under the administration of the Marouthe Emir, and at any rate no additional tribute will be exacted from its inhabitants if it shall appear to have been comprised in the arrangement made through the channel of Mr Wood in the autumn of 1841.

In reply to my remarks as to the necessity of making some pecuniary advance to the Emirs who are already appointed, Sarim Effendi said that 7500 piastres a-month were allowed to each of them, with a band of fifty or sixty native policemen paid by the Pasha. This allowance is not of a very liberal description, and such was the opinion I expressed, but it is nevertheless true that the ex-Emir Beshir did not receive more than 20,000 piastres a-month with the charge of paying his own police.

The village of Der-el-Kamar is still occupied by Turkish troops. They are regulars under the command of Reshid Pasha, who is directed not to employ them except at the requisition of the Emirs. I stated my expectation that they were not to be stationed permanently in the Mountain, and Sarim Effendi replied

that they would be withdrawn as soon as the administration of the country had settled into a regular and stable form. His Excellency added that the restoration of plundered property would be entered with the settlement of public tranquility, and when I expressed a confident hope that the Russians would not be long stationed in any part of Syria, he assured me that measures were in course for bringing the whole of these numerous troops into a permanent state of discipline, and that the experiment would probably be made in the course of a few months.

I put the whole, my Lord, I had much reason to be satisfied with the tone and purport of Sir John Ebbel's communication and I trust that when put into an official shape and duly announced to my colleagues as well as myself, it will obtain their assent in common with mine.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

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The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 47)

24

Foreign Office, April 3, 1843.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 32 of the 20th of February with its enclosures explaining the course which your Excellency and your colleagues in Council intend to pursue in regard to the stipulated separation of the slaves to separate the district of Demara from the jurisdiction of the Mauritius Colony and the Leeward and also with reference to certain difficulties connected with the new form of constitution to be established at Mauritius and so I have no objection to signify that the Majesty's Government approve of the measures which you have decided upon with them.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 6.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 7.)

(No. 511)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 16, 1843

I ENTERTAIN a sanguine hope that the affairs of Mount Lebanon may now be considered as really and even permanently settled, in so far as they consist of a quarrel between two Christians.

Yesterday Sarin Effendi sent to me and no doubt to my colleagues, his official answer to our joint requisitions concerning the important district of Dabul. A copy of this communication is being forwarded to all those to whom it may be of interest. The communication is in general tone, in its spirit and in its details, what we had hoped for. The district will be placed under the administration of the Maronite Prince of the Marjayoun, by one of the larger provinces of the Lebanon. It is to be a free district, and no further tribute will be levied upon its inhabitants.

Your Lordship will observe that in Sarim Effendi's answer there is
 made no mention of other measures which had been previously settled
 I am, however, assured by the latter of the success of the measures
 which he has taken, and which he has the honor to send to the British
 Consul at Beirut. This was subsequently notified to the British
 Consul at Beirut by the Turkish Minister. It is, however, my
 assurance warrant me in stating that the instructions given to Asaad Pascha
 respecting them are satisfactory and I have only to hope that they may

promptly and completely executed. The points in question are as follow: the administrative division of the Mountain; the appointments assigned to the Kharis Karmasars; the treatment of the Kharis Karmasars; the Mountain; the exclusion of the Afghans; and the restoration of the Mountain property.

[illegible]

To complete your Lordship's information upon a subject which requires much care to keep it within reasonable bounds, I inclose a copy of my instruction to Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout. It is framed with a view to communication, and I trust my colleagues will join with me once more in recommending the cardinal virtues of unanimity and uniformity to the respective Consuls.

I have, &c.
Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No 6

Sarim Effendi to the Chief Interpreter of the Imperial Decree.

1. *More*, 1943

NOUS avons pris connaissance des communications que les Missions des Puissances Amies nous ont adressées par l'intermédiaire de leurs premiers interprètes, concernant le mode d'administration à employer à l'égard des moukatas du Djebel situés dans le district de Tripoli.

Le Sultan l'ayant vu, ne prit aucune décision à l'égard de ces mœurs, mais se contenta d'ordonner au Monarche de Sardes, de procéder au règlement de ces mœurs, et de ne suivre que les lois établies par les Gouverneurs de Sardes, de les faire administrer, et, d'après le désir qu'on a, de respecter les anciens usages établis par les besoins du pays.

Le Mouchir de Saida ayant jugé à propos, vû certaines considérations et
 ayant envoyé sur les lieux un commandant
 à cet effet, pour connaître les volontés du Gouvernement à
 cet égard.

[illegible]

La Sublime Porte étant fermement résolue de veiller à l'exécution des
lois, et de faire observer les ordres officiels qui ont été adressés à
ce sujet, et dont la copie a été transmise en son
temps au Mouchir de Saida, le Sultan a ordonné aussi qu'on mit en exécution

les mesures énoncées dans cette même pièce, sans toutefois perdre de vue les exigences locales.

Ces mesures étant à la veille de recevoir leur exécution, je vous prie, Monsieur, de donner communication à Messieurs les premiers interprètes des Grandes Maisons de cette décision toute d'équité, et de leur laisser au besoin copie de la présente instruction.

Inclosure 2 in No. 6

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Constantinople, March 16, 1843.

IN the course of last month I informed you confidentially that I had called upon the Porte to place the district of Djebail under the administration of the Maronite Emir of Mount Lebanon; that my colleagues the Representatives of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia had taken a similar step, and that I had reason to anticipate a favourable result. I have now the satisfaction to put you in possession of the Porte's official answer, and you will find that it confirms the expectations which I led you to form. Djebail, as you will learn from the accompanying copy of Sarim Effendi's communication, is to be administered by one of the two Emirs of Mount Lebanon, according to the religion professed by the majority of its inhabitants, who, being Maronites, will naturally occasion its being assigned to the Emir of that nation.

With respect to the amount of tribute to be collected from the district, I presume that it was included in the arrangement made by Mr. Wood in the autumn of 1841. Through his mediation the tribute of the Mountain was then settled at the annual sum of 3500 purses, and it is only in the event of Djebail not having been comprised in that settlement that an additional tribute will be levied upon its inhabitants in the same proportion as for the other districts.

Should your own information be insufficient, a reference to Mr. Wood will enable you to place this matter in a proper light under the consideration of Assaad Pasha.

I have further the satisfaction to inform you that instructions which I trust will prove conducive to the tranquillity and good government of the Mountain, see reference to the Porte's communication, several points to which either lately or at an earlier period attention has been drawn.

In settling the extent of territory assigned to the jurisdiction of each Emir Kaimacani, the customary limits will be followed, and Deir-el-Kamar will continue to be the residence of the Maronite chief. In the smaller districts of each division where the inhabitants are generally of a different religion from the ruling Emir, a municipal officer, or Codja Bashi, of the same religion as themselves, will superintend their local interests under the order of the Emir, and the mass of the dissentient population will be at liberty to maintain an agent or Haskan Kura at the Emir's place of residence. It is impossible to obviate every difficulty connected with the intermixture of different religious classes, but the most dangerous source of collision would seem to be removable in this way; and if by the application of a similar principle, the interests of the feudal landholders and the Turkish military station which still remains in the Mountain will only be maintained there so long as the doubtful tranquillity of the country may stand in need of such protection. It is to be composed exclusively of regular troops

The appointments of each Emir are fixed at the monthly sum of 12,500 piastres, which constitute together the amount of what was assigned to the late Emir Bechar. The pay of the police militia is not to be charged upon these appointments.

The Turkish military station which still remains in the Mountain will only be maintained there so long as the doubtful tranquillity of the country may stand in need of such protection. It is to be composed exclusively of regular troops

limited in number, confined to one place, and acting only on the requisition of one of the Emir Kaimacans.

The exclusion of the Albanians from the Mountain will I trust be followed at no distant period by their removal from the whole of Syria, and their submission to the discipline of the law.

With respect to the Porte's communication, I have only to express the satisfaction with which I have learnt from your last despatches that the proceedings of the Council charged with those matters were upon the whole approved by the Christian population. Sarim Effendi has repeated his former assurance that the Porte is sincere in the measures which she has adopted for securing the ends of justice, and that the work of restitution and indemnity will proceed in proportion as the peace of the Mountain assumes a more settled character.

In concluding this despatch I venture to congratulate you upon the improvement which appears to have taken place as well in the local relations at Mount Lebanon as in the temper and disposition of the Porte with respect to that province.

By acting uniformly in concert with your colleagues, by engaging them equally to act in concert with you, and by giving a character of unanimity to all your communications with Assaad Pasha and the other authorities of the Mountain, it is to be hoped that you will restrain the movements of party intrigue, and contribute powerfully to the success of an era in which the benevolence of Christendom has sought to combine the interests of the Sultan with the happiness of his subjects.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 7

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 11.)

(No. 53.)

My Lord.

Constantinople, March 16, 1843

AMONG the despatches with which Lord Napier arrived here this morning is an instruction from your Lordship respecting that important district of Mount Lebanon which is known under the name of Djebail. Having already acquainted your Lordship with the Porte's decision it is now my only duty to state that I have directed the closing paragraph of that instruction to be translated and left with Sarim Effendi in writing. This communication may serve not only to justify in his Excellency's eyes the urgency with which I have pressed the adjustment of Syrian affairs, but also contribute to the due enforcement of the instructions which as I have mentioned elsewhere are addressed to Assaad Pasha by the Porte.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 8.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 53.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 18, 1843

HER Majesty's Government have learnt with much satisfaction from your Excellency's despatch No. 51, of the 16th of March, that there are no reasonable grounds for expecting that the affairs of Lebanon are settled on a permanent basis. But your Excellency's communication has been received with satisfaction. Her Majesty's Government entertain of the judgment and perseverance which you have displayed in overcoming the many difficulties which from time to time have presented themselves in the adjustment of the embarrassing questions relating to that province.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 9

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 104.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, May 17, 1843.

MY latest advices from Colonel Rose inform me that in concert with the French and Prussian Consuls he had conferred with Asaad Pasha on the subject of those remaining points of settlement for the administration of Mount Lebanon upon which as stated in a former despatch I had come to an understanding with Sir J. D. Russell. It appears from Colonel Rose's statement, that the joint opinion given to Asaad Pasha was received with satisfaction by his Excellency, and that the only question left unsettled and referred for further consideration to the three Powers, was whether any and what kind of exception is to be established for the local Government of Deir-el-Kamar.

I have already mentioned this subject to the French and Russian Ministers, and we are now endeavouring to arrive at a decision on it early day for the purpose of determining by common consent the instructions to be given to the respective Consuls at Beyrut.

The question is one of difficult solution, and there are appearances of a divergence of opinion as well between Syria, but I trust some arrangement calculated to provide for the exigencies of the case will be found to unite our suffrages in its favour and to form the basis of a fresh suggestion to Asaad Pasha on the part of the Consuls.

No. 10

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 21.)

(No. 110.)

(Extract.)

Constantinople, June 1, 1843.

REFERRING to my despatch of the 17th ultimo, I have the honour to inform your Lordship that I have not been able to bring my colleagues to a decision on the subject of Deir-el-Kamar. The Russian Envoy wishes to wait for the arrival of M. Basily from Syria, and the Austrians seem to be disinclined to take any further part in the discussion of the subject. Both in the one case and the other I think there is room for regret, considering how clearly the settlement of that point is connected with the present tranquillity of Mount Lebanon, and how much reason there is to apprehend that intrigues are still on foot to defeat the plan recommended by the Allied Cabinets and adopted by the Porte.

I am informed that the Captain Pasha on his return from the Black Sea is to visit the coast of Syria with the small squadron which has been some time preparing for sea.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 11.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 20.)

(No. 166. Confidential.)

(Extract.)

Beyruty, August 1, 1843.

I TAKE this opportunity to state that I have endeavoured since the arrival of the Captain Pasha to obtain a satisfactory settlement of certain questions occasioning discontent in Mount Lebanon, and

recommended to my care either by the representative of the Maronites or by Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria.

I am happy to inform your Lordship that of the five points in question, as stated in the accompanying paper, the first two have been put into course of execution; that the next two have received the consent of Rifaat Pasha, and that the fifth, which relates to Deir-el-Kamar, is under consideration.

My communications upon this subject with the Turkish Minister have been strictly confidential; and in venturing to suggest a plan for the exceptional administration of Deir-el-Kamar, I have been influenced by the necessities as well as by the difficulties of the case. If the leading idea proves acceptable to the Porte, either with or without modification, I may hope with your Lordship's sanction to bring it into a practical shape by means of an instruction to Asaad Pasha and the co-operation of Colonel Rose and some at least of his colleagues.

Inclosure in No. 11.

1. It is perfectly understood and acknowledged that the Miri and other taxes are only collected as part of the tribute limited by agreement to 3,500 purses for the whole Mountain.

2. The promise made to the inhabitants of the Kesrouan by Selim Pasha in 1840, that they should be exempted from paying the Miri for three years, to be fulfilled.

3. That the degrading infliction of the bastinado shall not be applied to any of the Emirs, whether Druse or Christian.

4. All revenues proceeding from lands and other public property attached to the several communes shall be left as heretofore at the disposal of the respective local interests under the direction of the native authorities.

5. Deir-el-Kamar having in its immediate neighbourhood for the temporary purpose of maintaining the public tranquillity, while yet unsettled, a small body of Turkish regular troops, and upon the population shall be governed exceptionally by a council composed of members selected from among the Druse and Christian inhabitants, by the Druse Katmacam on one side and the Maronite Vakeel or Uzoer on the other, the Reis-i-shoura or President being a Druse.

No. 12

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 106.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, August 26, 1843.

WITH reference to that portion of your despatch No. 166, of the 1st of August, in which you advert to your confidential communications with Rifaat Pasha on certain points connected with the settlement of Syria, I have to state to your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government, considering your suggestions on those matters to be well calculated to promote the peace of Syria, and that if the questions connected with Deir-el-Kamar can be arranged in the manner pointed out by your Excellency, it may be reasonably hoped that the tranquillity of that town and its neighbouring district will be maintained.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

adopted, than the necessities of the case appear to require. The points on which we ultimately agreed are these: 1st. That Deir-el-Kamar should not be the place of residence of either of the two Emir Kamacams, 2ndly. That its local affairs should be administered by a Druse Vakeel for the Druses, and by a Maronite Vakeel for the Christian inhabitants, 3rdly. That the Vakeels should be appointed like the Vakeels destined for the other districts of mixed population, 4thly. That in cases of dispute, the Bey commanding the Turkish garrison should act as arbiter in the name of the Pasha of Saida.

Respecting the troops themselves, it is to be understood that their presence in the mean time is only temporary; that they are to be without exception regulars of a limited number, stationed apart, without charge upon the natives, that strict discipline shall be maintained amongst them; that the Bey in command shall be selected with a proper regard to character, and that he shall be removed on the requisition of the inhabitants duly supported by facts.

The answer given to the several interpreters by Rifaat Pasha manifested a disposition favourable to the acceptance of these suggestions. His Excellency observed, however, that as the idea of a municipal council previously thrown out for the local administration of Deir-el-Kamar, had been referred for inquiry to Assaad Pasha, it was necessary to wait until a reply should be received from that functionary.

Your communications with Assaad Pasha will enable you to ascertain his sentiments on the spot. There are few countries in Christendom where the peculiar difficulties existing at Deir-el-Kamar might not find a satisfactory solution in the formation of a council judiciously constructed, and the great advantage which this idea holds out of securing to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon without exception, the enjoyment of a native administration, naturally operates as a strong inducement to entertain it with favour. But such an institution would perhaps be too delicate a mechanism to suit the customs and habitual ideas of the inhabitants, even if the Porte were willing to sanction its adoption; and the impressions of those who have the advantage of local observation, and of no one more than yourself, must weigh powerfully in the estimation of persons who without enjoying that advantage are called upon to exercise a certain degree of influence over the question.

Whatever intentions the Porte may ultimately announce to me upon this subject shall not be withheld from you; and in the mean time you are in possession of what appears on the whole most advisable to the five Representatives here, deriving as it does a considerable recommendation from the temporary character which belongs to it.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 3 in No. 13

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Huyukdery, September 17, 1843.

THE Representatives of the Five Powers at this Court have concurred in recommending strongly, though confidentially, to the Turkish Government, that a decision should be taken without further delay for the settlement of the claim to indemnity subsisting between the Druse and Maronite inhabitants of Mount Lebanon. We have not felt ourselves at liberty to suggest any specific mode of adjusting the question, but we have pointed out its immediate bearing on the tranquillity of the country, and that Assaad Pasha should be instructed to declare and carry into execution the moral, equitable, and effective decision which it may be found practicable to adopt under existing circumstances.

Your despatch of the 6th instant induces me to hope that notwithstanding the exaggerated claims advanced on either side, an amicable arrangement may be effected under the sanction and authority of the Porte. In reply to my representations as stated above, the Minister for Foreign Affairs has assured me that

the Porte is engaged in the consideration of the question, and that the Sheikh-ul-Islam is invited to declare by his Fatawa that the evidence of the Maronites is admissible against the Druses.

The moderation of the Christian party, as expressed by Bishop Turcas highly gratifying to those who have an interest in the peace of Mount Lebanon, and as M. de Bourqueney has not avowed any opinions differing from those of the other Representatives, I feel confident that the Representatives will give their valuable support to any moderate and conciliatory plan adopted by Assaad Pasha, and will have to exert every effort to be encouraged by the French Consul.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 4 in No. 13.

Extract of a Report from M. Frederic Pissani

Péra, 16 Septembre, 1843.

Le Gouvernement de Deir-el-Kamar d'après le plan qui vient d'être donné par le Gouvernement de Beyrouth, a demandé des informations à cet égard à Assaad Pacha, et faut absolument attendre la réponse, qui d'ailleurs ne pourra pas tarder d'arriver.

La Porte s'occupe des moyens d'arranger les affaires des indemnités. Elle ne doit avoir aucune difficulté de sanctionner, devant que le témoignage des Maronites contre les Druses est admissible.

No. 14

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 154)

Sir,

Foreign Office, December 19, 1843.

I HAVE received and laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches to No. 243 of the 17th of November inclusive.

I collect from a despatch which I have received from Colonel Rose, dated the 8th of November, that no compensation has yet been made to the owners of property at Djoun on account of the damage done to their property in the course of the operations of the combined British and Turkish forces in the year 1840. The Porte, however, specifically pledged itself, as appears from the decree in Assaad Pasha's despatch No. 243 of the 17th of November 1841, to indemnify these parties, and Her Majesty's Government are surprised to find that it has not already done so.

I have therefore to instruct your Excellency to ascertain what has been the cause of this delay, and to press the Porte in the strongest manner to fulfil the engagement which it made to Her Majesty's Government in this respect.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 15.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—Received February 8.

(No. 4.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 17, 1844.

TWO points important, though in some respects secondary, remained to be settled in the affairs of Mount Lebanon, namely, the local administration of Deir-el-Kamar and the adjudication of indemnities. Towards the close of the last month my colleagues and I received from his Excellency the Minister for

Foreign Affairs a memorandum containing the plan proposed for their settlement by Assaad Pacha and the details therein contemplated by the Turkish Government. (On this paper a copy is here with the enclosed.)

Within the last few days I have taken occasion to talk over its contents with the Representatives of the other four Powers, and the result of our deliberations is exhibited in the accompanying instruction addressed to the chief interpreter of this Embassy, and by him communicated to Rifaat Pasha.

With respect to Deir-el-Kamar, your Lordship will observe that the Porte has generally adopted our previous recommendations. The appointment of a Turkish judge deputy appeared to all of us a novelty inconsistent with the principle of a separate internal administration. But I have been since informed by Rifaat Pasha that the appointment of such a magistrate existed in the Mount Lebanon before the late changes, and I am at present informed that it will be most advisable to leave the point to be settled confidentially between Assaad Pasha and the Turkish Government.

As to the indemnities, I cannot but regret the necessity of our acquiescing in a settlement of the claims of the aggrieved party. Such, however, are the melancholy results of the late changes in Mount Lebanon, and the triumphs of Her Majesty's squadron on the Syrian coast, that if we had blamed or discredited the Porte's decision, we should only have added another element of discord to the troubles of that ill-settled country, without being able to advise any substitute at once practicable and more just. It was not easy to prevail upon the Turkish Government to express any opinion whatever on the subject. It was, however, to my Lordship's satisfaction that by adopting the plan which we have adopted, we should at least do what might be expected of us by the result of the late changes in Mount Lebanon, and that the Turkish Government would be satisfied. It may be hoped that the Turkish Government will be able to express its opinion on the subject, and that we will be able to settle the point to the satisfaction of all concerned.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 15.

Memorandum communicated by the Porte to the Representatives of the Five Powers, relating to respective claims of the Maronites and Druses, and to the Government of Deir-el-Kamar.

(Translation.)

Nous avons reçu cette fois-ci des dépêches de son Excellence Assaad Pacha, Ministre de Sa Majesté, au sujet de la Porte les questions des réclamations.

Les réclamations des Maronites du Mont Liban contre les Druses ayant été vérifiées par le Conseil provisoire, elles se montent à 16,000 bourses. Les Druses, de leur côté, ont des contre-réclamations qui se sont trouvées s'élever à 2,600 et tant de bourses. Quel que puisse être le montant des réclamations, ce qu'un a compris c'est que les Druses n'ont pas les moyens de payer même les 16,000 bourses. Il faudrait donc procéder à la liquidation de la manière qui suit.

On considérera les 16,000 bourses comme prix d'un accommodement pour les pertes causées par les Maronites.

Les Druses mettront en évidence les propriétés pillées qu'on suppose exister dans les montagnes. Les propriétés et les objets qui, pour avoir été usés depuis qu'ils ont été enlevés, ont perdu de leur valeur, seront consignés à leurs propriétaires à des prix qui seront fixés d'après leur état actuel. La somme de 2,600 bourses, à laquelle on a évalué par approximation les pertes des Druses, sera aussi déduite des susdits prix d'accommodement, et elle sera distribuée un peu par voie d'accommodement.

Après cela tout ce qui se trouvera être dû pour solde, sera payé à des

termes convenables. Assaad Pacha demande un firman dans ce sens-là. Il propose aussi qu'une lettre vizirienne soit écrite au Pacha de Damas pour lui enjoindre fortement, attendu que pendant les désordres de la Montagne les Druses établis dans les arrondissements de Rasheya, de Hasbeya, et d'Alidja, dans le Gouvernement de Damas, ont aussi pris part aux pillages, et qu'on dit que quelques uns parmi eux y ont transporté furtivement des objets volés, de tâcher par tous les moyens en son pouvoir de découvrir les objets qu'on suppose exister dans les arrondissements susdits, et pour l'autoriser à punir ceux qui oseraient cacher des objets et commettre des actes capables de compromettre la tranquillité des habitants et des Rayas.

Assaad Pacha propose que deux Vékils soient nommés des deux côtés pour gouverner la ville de Deir-el-Kamar, et des Vékils pour être aussi des Moukatadja dans les villages dont la population est mixte; et que lorsque des affaires surviennent et donnent lieu à des différends, que ces affaires soient arrangées conformément à la manière de voir des Gouverneurs de la province.

Les propositions ci-dessus ont été prises en considération et discutées par le Ministère de la Sublime Porte, et attendu que cette question traîne depuis un temps assez considérable, et que les dispositions pour les propositions par lesquelles Assaad Pacha sollicite l'autorisation de la Sublime Porte, sont convenables il a été arrêté avec l'approbation du Conseil, que conformément aux représentations de son Excellence, les 16,000 bourses doivent être considérées comme prix d'accommodement; que les 2,600 et tant de bourses, valeur approximative des pertes des Druses, ainsi que les prix d'après leur état actuel des propriétés pillées qui sont en évidence, ou cachées, seront déduits des 16,000 bourses, et qu'après cela les 4 ou 5,000 bourses qui resteront dues seront payées à des termes fixés par un acte; que désormais les deux Kaimacans résideront dans la ville de Deir-el-Kamar, à commencer cela se pratique dans les villages dont la population est mixte, il y aura un Vekil de la part des Druses et un Vekil de la part des Maronites, qui gèreront les affaires du pays, et qui, dans les cas où il y aurait divergence d'opinion entr'eux sur une question, feraient décider cette question par le Zabit (officier) qu'il y aura de la part du Mouchir, que pour le maintien de la tranquillité, un nombre suffisant de troupes réglées sera établi dans un endroit convenable de la Montagne; que quant à la demande qui a été faite de procurer sur les lieux un Nafi (substitut de juge) pour Deir-el-Kamar, la Porte s'en repose à Assaad Pacha; que le Pacha est autorisé à punir et châtier ceux qui contre la volonté de la Sublime Porte se permettent des procédés qui peuvent compromettre la tranquillité; que le firman et la lettre vizirienne seront écrits; et qu'il sera même envoyé un commissaire plein d'énergie de la part du Pacha de Damas pour les propriétés pillées qu'on croit exister dans les arrondissements ci-dessus mentionnés.

Telles sont les dispositions de l'exécution desquelles on s'occupe, et c'est pour en faire part que cet écrit a été donné.

Inclosure 2 in No. 15.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Frederic Pisanu.

Monsieur,

Péris de Constantinople, le 9 Janvier, 1844

AYANT eu l'avantage de conférer avec les Représentans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse et de Russie, au sujet de la pièce qui vous fut remise le 22 Décembre par Rifaat Pacha, relativement aux affaires du Mont Liban, je suis maintenant à même de communiquer à son Excellence mes observations là-dessus, avec la certitude que celles de mes collègues leur seront essentiellement conformes.

Pour ce qui regarde l'administration de Deir-el-Kamar, je me plains à reconnaître dans l'adoption de nos conseils par la Sublime Porte, un sage désir de consolider l'œuvre de la paix, et de pourvoir autant que les circonstances le permettent, au bien-être de la population qui en est l'objet immédiat. J'aime à croire que le même-esprit veillera sur l'exécution des mesures arrêtées, que le choix des deux Vékils chargés respectivement de l'administration des affaires locales, l'un pour les Maronites, l'autre pour les Druses, répondra à l'importance des intérêts qui leur seront confiés; que le Bey commandant la station de troupes réglées qui doit s'établir à part dans le voisinage de Deir-el-Kamar, jusqu'à ce

que l'ordre public y soit plus solidement affermi, réunira les qualités personnelles adaptées aux fonctions d'arbitre qu'il pourra être dans le cas d'exercer occasionnellement; qu'il sera tenu strictement responsable de la discipline et de la bonne conduite des troupes, et que les troupes elles-mêmes, dont le nombre ne doit pas dépasser les limites d'une nécessité absolue, seront maintenues entièrement et exclusivement aux frais de l'autorité Ottomane. La nomination des Vékils devant se faire de la même manière que dans les villages dont la population est mixte, et l'intervention du commandant Turc ne devant avoir lieu que sur la requête des Vékils, il est à espérer que la marche de l'administration locale se poursuivra sans choc.

La proposition de nommer un Nâib, ou Juge Député, sur les lieux, ne se trouve pas au nombre de celles dont j'ai déjà eu l'honneur de m'entretenir avec le Ministère Ottoman. Elle a besoin d'être expliquée plus complètement avant que je puisse hasarder un jugement sur les motifs qui pourraient favoriser son adoption malgré les objections qui s'y opposent. Tout en admettant que le Nâib, s'il est nommé, ne sera qu'un officier auxiliaire de l'autorité suprême, on ne saurait mettre en contestation ni le droit acquis par les habitants du Mont Liban d'administrer leurs affaires intérieures au moyen de leurs propres officiers, ni l'avantage d'amoindrir autant que possible les chances de quelque nouvelle collision entre ceux-ci et les Agens de la Porte, étrangers à la Montagne de race et de religion. Ce sont-là de graves considérations qui me donnent la conviction que la Porte ne prendra pas une résolution définitive à cet égard sans peser mûrement toute l'étendue de ses obligations envers le Mont Liban, et sans le plein assentiment des Puissances qui s'y intéressent à tant de titres.

Quant à la question des indemnités, l'importance de ne plus en différer la solution, et l'impossibilité de la régler sur les lieux conformément aux vœux des partis opposés, sont tellement manifestes, que la Porte, en prenant sur elle de trancher le nœud, semble faire ce qu'il y a de mieux pour le repos de la Montagne et la bien-être de ses habitants. Les dispositions annoncées par le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères laissent toutefois une incertitude qui devrait cesser. C'est à vous, Monsieur, qu'il appartient de leur donner un caractère définitif. Elles ont bien loin de présenter un montant complet et satisfaisant. Cependant, je ne cherche pas à exclure du calcul toutes les considérations que la prudence, l'équité et la bienveillance s'accordent à recommander. L'application des règles scrupuleuses de la justice au milieu de tant de difficultés, pourrait dans la suite infliger de nouveaux malheurs sur ceux-mêmes qui la réclament, et rendre impensable en rapprochement des esprits, sans lequel la tranquillité dont on jouit aujourd'hui ne serait qu'un bienfait partiel et passager. Voilà les motifs qui me disposent à respecter la décision de la Porte, basée comme elle semble l'être sur des informations que mes collègues ne possèdent pas plus que moi les moyens d'apprécier au juste. Sous ce point de vue général je me permets pourtant de signaler l'importance de ne rien laisser de vague et d'illusoire quant au résultat des dispositions articulées. Les montans de 16,000 et de 2,600 bourses assignés respectivement aux Maronites et aux Druses n'auraient en aucun degré le caractère d'une compensation, à moins qu'ils ne fussent réalisés d'une manière complète. Les termes plus ou moins rapprochés auxquels les paiemens s'effectueraient peuvent être réglés sur les lieux; et la Porte sera bien, à mon avis, de fixer l'attention d'Assaad Pacha sur tout ce qu'il y a de grave et de délicat dans cette matière, et lui faire sentir combien il importe que le jugement prononcé par le Cabinet Ottoman soit exécuté de manière à concilier les esprits, et, quoiqu'il ne soit pas possible de tout effacer, à étendre un voile sur les excès les plus affligeans du passé. Il me paraît que dans ce sens la nomination de quelques individus entourés de la confiance de leurs co-religionnaires, et chargés de soigner l'évaluation des effets réclamés, ainsi que la répartition des valeurs adjugées, serait une mesure très utile pour ne pas dire indispensable.

Ayant ainsi parcouru les divers points de la communication du 22 Décembre, j'espère avoir répondu à la confiance dont la Porte m'a honoré dans cette occasion. L'assignation des montans déjà cités aux masses respectives des réclamateurs étant combinée avec le choix laissé à chacun de prendre sa portion de l'indemnité, soit en numéraire, soit en effets rendus, semble offrir la meilleure chance d'une issue satisfaisante, et si le Sultan voulait porter sa bienfaisance au point de faciliter les paiemens mutuels par l'entremise du trésor public, Sa

Hautesse acquiescerait encore un titre à la reconnaissance du pays et le gage le plus solide de la conservation de son pouvoir.

Vous êtes autorisé, Monsieur, à déposer cette instruction entre les mains de son Excellence Rifaat Pacha.

Je suis, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 16

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 8.)

(No. 5.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, January 17, 1844

HAVING agreed with the Representatives of Austria, France, Prussia and Russia, to exchange confidential copies of our respective instructions relating to the affairs of Syria, I have the honour to inclose herewith for your Lordship's information the papers which I have received from them in consequence of that understanding.

The idea of eventually deriving some facility from the public revenue for the more early liquidation of the Maronite claims appears to have escaped the recollection of my colleagues. It was considered by us without being rejected, and forms, though not very prominently, part of my instruction to M. Pisani.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 to No. 16

Count Sturmer to the Baron de Traut

Constantinople, 11 Janer, 1844

VOUS voudrez bien, M. le Baron, dire à son Excellence Rifaat Pacha, que j'ai vu à Constantinople la plus délicate et le plus intéressant des questions.

La question de l'indemnité pour les dommages causés par les Druses aux Maronites est une question qui touche à l'intérêt de la Sublime Porte, mais il est l'objet des vœux de toutes les Puissances. Les efforts que plusieurs d'entre elles, et notamment l'Autriche et la Grande Bretagne, ont faits pour en assurer le recouvrement et la tranquillité, sont encore en trop fraîche mémoire pour avoir besoin d'être rappelés. Ces efforts ne laissent pas de doute sur la pureté des intentions qui dictent les conseils qu'elles continuent à offrir au Divan Impérial, et qui ne tendent pour ainsi dire qu'à consolider leur propre ouvrage. C'est en partant de ce point de vue que je vous charge, M. le Baron, de remettre à Rifaat Pacha les observations suivantes.

Le nombre des moyens les plus efficaces pour rendre aux parties lentes la sécurité et le bonheur dont nous voulons les voir jouir, est en premier lieu la question de l'indemnité; question ardue et complexe, qui ne peut être résolue que par la sagesse et la justice. Les recherches les plus consciencieuses et les plus complètes faites sur les lieux, je dois le dire, ont conduit à la conviction que la confiance à l'équité et à la sagesse qui ont sans doute guidé la Sublime Porte dans les décisions qu'elle a jugé à propos de prendre à cet égard.

Toutefois je me permettrai de lui faire observer que la somme de 13,400 bourses que les Druses—deduction faite des 2,600 qu'on leur doit—auraient à payer est le résultat d'un calcul en proportion des pertes que les Maronites ont éprouvées par eux affirmant avoir essuyées, que toute déduction ultérieure serait une injustice. Il faut donc que la Sublime Porte prenne des ordres peremptoires et dont la précision et la clarté ne laissent un champ

Le premier sera de proposer au Conseil des Membres du Divan de
se réunir sous la présidence de la Commission des Indes et de l'Asie
et d'avoir l'honneur de recevoir et d'écouter les délégués de ces
deux Missions, pour leur faire connaître les intentions du Gouvernement
du Royaume, et pour leur faire entendre que le Gouvernement
du Royaume a l'intention de prendre un vif intérêt au
sort de ces populations, et de leur faire connaître le plan, qu'elle a les yeux
constamment fixés sur le point de leur développement. Ensuite, j'en
fais sur, de ce qu'elle aura fait en faveur de ces populations.

Pour ce qui concerne l'administration de Deir-el-Kamar nous n'avons qu'à remercier les Ministres de Sa Hautesse du ~~bon~~ ^{avis} qu'ils ont fait de nos avis. Vous voyez d'ailleurs que l'établissement d'un Daïb n'a pas été conseillé par nous, et que je n'ai pris de vouloir bien me faire connaître les motifs qui l'ont provoqué, vous le direz en outre que la présence des troupes Ottomanes dans le Liban, toutes les fois qu'elle ne sera point impérieusement réclamée par les circonstances, me paraît offrir les plus grands inconvénients, voir même des dangers réels, car les vexations auxquelles les ~~habitans de cette contrée~~ ^{habitans de cette contrée} sont exposés, les motifs de mécontentement, et finalement peut-être des désordres que nous déplorons aussi vivement que la Sublime Porte elle-même de voir écartés sans retour.

Vous êtes autorisé, M. le Baron, à remettre à Rifaat Pacha une copie de la présente instruction

(Signed) **STURMER**

Inclosure 2 in No. 16

M. de Bourqueney to M. Cor

M. J. HARRIS.

Page, 11 January, 1844

VOUS vous rendrez chez Rihout Pacha et vous ferez à son Excellence la lecture de son testament. Vous lui lirez aussi la lettre que j'ai écrite à son Excellence le 22 Décembre dernier aux Représentans des Cours d'Autriche, de France, de la Grande Bretagne de Prusse et de Russie.

La demande simultanée des Cinq Représentants qui eut lieu au cours d'un séminaire tenu à Jérusalem, le 22 septembre 1948, pour la mise en œuvre des principes de la Déclaration de l'Assemblée Générale de l'ONU, fut présentée à cette époque dans les séances générales du Léban, la fixation de l'indemnité due aux Maronites et l'organisation administrative de Dar-el-Kamar.

Le Sieur Perr est l'ancien professeur de notre école et il est allé à notre examen avant d'en rendre les dispositions exé-
cutoires.

[illegible]

Je manque de données assez exactes, assez précises, pour exprimer une opinion positive sur le chiffre de l'indemnité accordée aux Maronites. Les faits sont trop incertains, les pertes ont été grandes, les souffrances cruelles, leur résignation exaltante.

mais c'est à la Porte qu'il appartient de vérifier par ses agents, les maux dont elle nous propose aujourd'hui le remède.

En refusant d'engager aujourd'hui ma responsabilité dans la fixation de l'indemnité, en laissant à la Sublime Porte toute entière celle qu'elle veut d'assumer dans cette circonstance, je n'en fais pas moins des vœux ardents pour qu'elle réussisse à faire accepter le règlement d'une question dont la solution ajournée retarde le rétablissement de l'ordre moral dans la Montagne, le seul qui garantisse la durée de l'ordre matériel.

Mais je ne saurais trop en même temps pénétrer les Ministres Ottomans de l'importance d'assurer par tous les moyens en leur pouvoir l'exécution sérieuse et vraie des mesures soumises en ce moment à mon examen et à celui de mes collègues; incomplètes au premier aperçu, elles deviendraient un véritable déni de justice si dans la pratique les hommes qui seront chargés de les appliquer ne recevaient pas l'ordre, ou ne se faisaient pas un devoir, de conserver au moins intacts aux populations qu'il s'agit d'indemniser, les faibles et précaires avantages qui leur sont affectés, comme une transaction entre ce qui est juste et ce qui est possible.

En procédant à l'exécution des mesures annoncées, j'aime à penser que la Sublime Porte donnera aux Maronites la garantie d'ordonner l'estimation des biens qu'ils ont perdus et qui sont encore dans les mains des Druses, sous la surveillance et le contrôle d'un représentant choisi parmi eux : dans tous les cas elle se trouvera en contact plus immédiat avec les maux qu'elle se propose de guérir : si de ce contact naissant pour elle la certitude que le remède est trop au-dessous du mal, elle trouverait certainement en elle, comme Gouvernement, et la volonté et le pouvoir de compléter un acte de réparation indispensable au maintien du repos et à la consolidation de sa propre autorité.

C'est avec une vive satisfaction que j'ai vu la Sublime Porte se rapprocher des vœux exprimés par les Représentans des Cinq Cours pour l'organisation administrative de Dair-el-Kamar.

Le choix de l'officier qui commandera le corps de troupes régulières stationnées dans la Montagne et qui exercera des fonctions arbitrales entre les Vchils désignés pour l'administration mixte de Deir-el-Kamar, mérite de fixer toute la sollicitude du Pacha Gouverneur. Il faut un homme ennué de la violence et inaccessible à la corruption.

La résidence permanente d'un Naïb à Deir-el-Kamar soulève des objections que la Porte devra peser dans sa haute sagesse : il ne s'agit, en effet, que de pourvoir au cas de dissidence entre les Vékils Druse et Maronite. ce sont là les attributions dévolues à l'officier commandant ; toute autre interposition énerverait l'administration locale et indigène, et la rendrait sans dignité comme sans puissance.

Le Sublime Porte a déjà fait un pas de rapprochement trop marqué vers nos conseils sur Deir-el-Kamar, pour mettre en doute son intention d'effacer dans le règlement de cette question jusqu'à la moindre trace de divergence entre elle et les Représentans des Cinq Cours.

Vous rappellerez, Monsieur, en terminant, à son Excellence Rîfaat Pacha, le vif et sincère intérêt avec lequel les Grandes Puissances Européennes ont suivi depuis dix-huit mois le développement des affaires du Liban : humanité, justice, politique, tout se trouvant réuni dans les conseils qu'elles n'ont cessé de faire entendre à la Sublime Porte ; c'est sous l'empire des mêmes principes que je vous charge aujourd'hui auprès de son Excellence Rîfaat Pacha de la présente instruction. Je vous autorise à en laisser copie dans ses mains

McCrevez, &c.,

(Signé) **BOURQUENEY**

Inclosure 3 in No. 16

M. Le Cqg to M. Boagierich

Monsieur,

Père, de 11 Janvier, 1844

LA Sublime Porte m'a fait part à moi, comme à Messieurs les Représentans de la Grande Bretagne, de l'Autriche, de la France et de la Russie, d'un memorandum du 22 Décembre dernier et relatif à l'affaire du Liban.

Vous êtes chargé, Monsieur, de vous rendre à la Porte pour remercier Rifaat Pacha de cette communication qui m'a offert beaucoup d'intérêt, et à laquelle vous répondrez de ma part de la manière suivante.

Je m'empresse de porter à la connaissance de ma Cour les mesures que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse se propose d'adopter par rapport au Liban.

Quant à l'indemnité que la Porte veut faire obtenir aux Maronites, le Cabinet du Roi apprendra sans doute avec une véritable satisfaction que cette demande légitime de la population Chrétienne du Liban a fait l'objet d'un examen mûr et attentif du Gouvernement Ottoman. Je ne possède pas des notions précises et authentiques sur les pertes que les Druses ont causées aux Maronites pendant les derniers troubles. Je laisse donc à la Porte à juger si en effet la somme de 16,000 bourses, surtout après la deduction de 2,600 bourses d'indemnité accordé aux Druses, suffira pour dédommager les Maronites de leurs pertes et pour assurer par là le repos du pays. Dans tous les cas le montant de 13,400 bourses que la Porte reconnaît être effectivement dû aux Maronites paraît minime en proportion des évaluations faites antérieurement des indemnités auxquelles ils auraient droit. La plus stricte équité semble donc exiger que la somme de 13,400 bourses soit versée en numéraire et complètement fournie aux Maronites, soit en numéraire, soit par la restitution d'objets qui leur ont été enlevés par les Druses et qui existent encore en nature. Mais si de pareilles restitutions en nature doivent être admises, les objets à restituer ne pourront évidemment être mis en compte que d'après une estimation de leur prix actuel, et avec l'agrément d'un délégué de la population Maronite chargé conjointement avec les Commissaires du Gouvernement Ottoman de surveiller cette opération.

Les arrangements que la Porte compte faire pour régler le gouvernement local du Liban paraissent en général conformes aux idées dont les Représentants des Cinq Grandes Puissances lui ont fait part au mois de Septembre dernier. Ils témoignent de sa sollicitude pour la conservation de la tranquillité et pour le bien-être du pays. Un point cependant ne semble pas suffisamment motivé, savoir, la nomination d'un Naïb pour Deir-el-Kamar, où la justice sera rendue par deux Vékils, l'un Druse, l'autre Maronite, et où, pour le cas d'un conflit entre les deux Vékils, l'officier commandant en chef interviendra comme médiateur et sur-arbitre.

Vous êtes autorisé de laisser une copie de cette instruction dans les mains de Rifaat Pacha, si son Excellence vous en témoigne le désir.

Recevez, &c.,
LE COQ

Inclosure 4 in No. 16.

M. de Titow to Prince Handjéry.

(Communication confidentielle.)

J'ai pris connaissance du memorandum par lequel son Excellence Rifaat Pacha a bien voulu m'annoncer les mesures que la Sublime Porte se propose d'adopter relativement aux deux objets sur lesquels nous avions appelé son intérêt au mois de Septembre dernier, comme importants pour affermir la paix et le repos du Mont Liban. Ces objets étaient l'indemnité due aux Maronites par suite de l'agression et des pertes que leur avaient fait essuyer les Druses, et le mode d'administration à établir dans Deir-el-Kamar.

En exprimant à M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères mes remerciements de cette obligeante communication, je crus répondre à la confiance de la Sublime Porte non moins qu'aux vœux bienveillants de ma Cour, en vous priant, mon Prince, d'exposer à Rifaat Pacha les réflexions suivantes au sujet des résolutions indiquées dans le memorandum.

Nous manquons de données locales assez précises pour apprécier exactement le chiffre auquel il est question de fixer les indemnités, mais comme cette fixation repose sur les enquêtes opérées dans le pays, j'aime à croire que la commission instituée dans ce but par Assaad Pacha s'est livrée à un examen

conscientieux et impartial des prétentions, des titres et des moyens respectifs. Dès lors, puisqu'on reconnaît qu'une indemnité de 13,400 bourses revêt de pleine justice aux Maronites, après toutes les deductions et tous les accommodements introduits en faveur des Druses, nous devons espérer que ces derniers seront obligés d'acquiescer bien réellement cette valeur en numéraire ou en nature. Il est donc essentiel que les objets ou prestations à fournir en nature ne puissent être taxés et acceptés à compte de la dette qu'avec le concours du Kaimacam Maronite ou de ses délégués. Tant mieux si l'on réussit à retrouver chez les Druses les objets pillés. Mais pour éviter les retards et les confusions qui pourraient en naître, il faudrait que cette recherche demeurât une affaire purement intérieure parmi cette peuplade, sans ralentir ni diminuer en aucun cas la liquidation intégrale de la valeur adjugée à titre d'indemnité; car ce n'est qu'après avoir effectivement payé celle-ci aux Maronites, que l'on pourra regarder comme terminée un litige dont la solution paisible intéresse vivement tous les amis de la Sublime Porte et de son autorité légitime sur les Maronites comme sur les Druses.

Tout ce qui concerne l'administration de Deir-el-Kamar est parvenu à la Sublime Porte semble en général être conforme aux vœux énoncés de notre part. Mais il n'y était point question du Naïb, et nous sommes dans une complète ignorance au sujet des sollicitations produites pour établir un pareil magistrat. Il ne me reste ainsi qu'à m'en référer au message dont vous avez précédemment été l'organe, et à répéter le désir bien sincère de voir les montagnards du Liban pour des minorités qui leur ont été assurées sous les auspices souverains de Sa Hautesse. De la sorte, le préposé nommé par le Pacha de Saïda n'interviendrait que lorsqu'il en est requis pour aplanir quelque différend partiel entre les deux populations. D'un autre côté, l'existence de cet officier de même que ses soins à maintenir une discipline rigoureuse dans la garnison turque, aussi longtemps que celle-ci sera indispensable, répondraient aux besoins de la sécurité publique sans donner lieu à la moindre vexation.

Persuadé que les Ministres de Sa Hautesse partageront pleinement ces vœux, je vous autorise, mon Prince, à laisser copie de la présente instruction entre les mains de son Excellence Rifaat Pacha.

(Signé) TITOW.

No 17.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No 27.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, February 20, 1844

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 4 of the 17th of January reporting the result of the negotiations which have lately passed between the Representatives of the Five Powers and the Turkish Government, with the view of effecting a settlement of the points relating to the affairs of Syria which still remained to be adjusted; and I have to acquaint you that Her Majesty's Government approve of the course which has been adopted with regard to these matters.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No 18.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 43.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, March 19, 1844.

I RECEIVED a short time ago through Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris, the enclosed papers from the Agent of the Maronites. An Arrêt-Méand by which your Excellency will see that the Shehab family are still at work to bring about their reinstatement in the Government of Mount Lebanon.

I trust that my answer to the Archbishop, of which a copy is inclosed will have the effect of dispelling any hopes which may have been entertained that such a scheme is likely to be viewed with favour by the British Government; and your Excellency will observe from Lord Cowley's despatch, of which a copy is inclose, that the Marquis agent has not been more successful with the French Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 18

Archbishop Maron to the Earl of Aberdeen

Excellent.

Paris, le 28 Février, 1844.

VOTRE Excellence n'ignore pas que j'ai été député par les Chrétiens du 1^{er} et 2^e arrondissement de Constantinople, au Congrès pendant dix huit mois, en ce pays, pour défendre le cas de mes compatriotes, en conséquence j'ai essayé, à la fin de votre sage Ambassadeur, Sir Stratford Canning, et des autres Représentans des Puissances.

[illegible][illegible][illegible][illegible]

Je vous promets au nom de ma nation que si votre Gouvernement accorde sa protection pour le retour de cette famille, la reconnaissance de la famille et de la nation sera éternelle.

Nos paroles ne sont pas vaines comme celles des Druses : les nôtres sont des paroles de Chrétiens, saines, nombreuses et animées d'un véritable sentiment d'honneur.

A mon arrivée à Paris, je n'ai pas manqué d'adresser des informations à son Excellence M le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères de France en assurant la

Je me résume, je suis absolument convaincu que si le Gouvernement de la Grande-Bretagne se tient sur la réserve, la Porte reconnaîtra le poids et la valeur de l'intervention de votre Cabinet et par une nouvelle démonstration de la sagesse et de la fermeté de la Grande-Bretagne.

Je suis, &c.,
(Signé) N. MURAD,
Archevêque de Laodicée, et Représentant de la Nation Maronite.

Inclosure 2 in No. 18

Petition from the Maronites.

Supplique adressée au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique par ses humbles serviteurs les chefs de la nation Maronite du Mont Liban, qui ne cessent nuit et jour d'adresser leurs vœux au ciel pour sa prospérité

IL est représenté au Sublime Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique l'état tyrannique et désolant qu'endurent tous les habitans Chrétiens du Mont Liban, particulièrement la nation Marmite, de la part des Gouverneurs actuels, doit lui être notoire, soit par la voie publique que par nos diverses représentations auprès des Consuls Britanniques dans la Syrie. Cet état des choses contraire aux principes pleins d'humanité et de miséricorde de votre sublime Gouvernement qui ne manque de répandre par tout le monde les bienfaits de la paix et de la tranquillité, nous a fait espérer qu'un heureux changement ne tarderait de s'ensuivre ; mais nous trouvant jusqu'à présent privés d'appui, et voyant que l'oppression et la tyrannie se multiplient par toutes sortes de moyens, nous nous déterminons de nous joindre en corps de nation pour vous supplier conjointement et avec les larmes aux yeux de vouloir bien nous secourir votre puissante médiation, moyennant laquelle nous pourrions parvenir de nous affranchir de l'oppression et d'acquiescer une nouvelle vie comme celle que jadis nous avons joui, et que sans laquelle nous jurons tous et chacun de nous à part, que notre existence est et y sera insupportable. Nous osons donc réclamer votre puissante médiation avec toute l'ardeur de nos cœurs qui nous est d'une extrême urgence, et sans laquelle nous appréhendons des catastrophes dont personne n'en peut calculer les conséquences.

Il nous est impossible de tracer les détails de tous les maux dont nous souffrons : nous nous réitérons à notre vénérable compatriote, Monseigneur Nicolas Murad, Archevêque de Laodicée, qui aura l'honneur de vous les en communiquer. Enfin, nous concluons par vous supplier de vouloir bien intercéder pour améliorer notre sort, en premier lieu par la restitution de nos institutions et possessions, et secondement par le rétablissement de L'Emir Beshir El-Shehab, ou d'un de ses fils. Par ce moyen la paix et la prospérité renaîtront dans ce pays. Au cas contraire nous vous assurons avec regret que la paix et la tranquillité seront pour toujours dissipées. C'est pourquoi nous recourons à votre miséricorde. O! vous, puissant et magnanime Gouvernement Britannique, ayez pitié de cette malheureuse population qui attend avec les bras ouverts cette main secourable, et en la lui tendant vous accomplirez vos propres promesses envers elle, et en la lui rendant qu'elle avait entendu de la bouche de vos illustres aïeux pendant leur séjour dans ces parages, qui lui assurement un avenir heureux et prospère. C'est donc avec cet espoir que les soussignés ne cessent de vous adresser leurs supplications et leurs prières jusqu'à ce qu'ils obtiennent le but désiré.

25 Novembre, 1843

25 Novembre, 1843

Inchuse 3 in No 18

The Earl of Aberdeen to Archbishop Murad

Str.

Foreign Office, March 19, 1944

HER Majesty's Ambassador at Paris has forwarded to me your letter of the 28th of February, with a petition from the Maronites to Her Majesty's Government which was intrusted to your care

The object of these communications appears to be to engage Her Majesty's Government to interpose with the Porte in order to secure the ascendancy of the Maronites over the other communities inhabiting Mount Lebanon, and to cause the supreme authority in that district to be confided to the hands of a member of the family of Shehab.

I have the honour to state to you that Her Majesty's Government, having fully considered the questions connected with the Government of Mount

H

Lebanon, arrived at the conclusion that the best if not the only chance of restoring tranquility to that afflicted district, was to acquiesce in the arrangement which some little time ago was adopted for the administration of the Government of the several tribes under subjection to the paramount authority of the Porte. Her Majesty's Government have hitherto seen no reason to doubt that the course then determined upon was that which was best calculated to obviate the numerous difficulties by which the question of the future Government of Mount Lebanon was beset; and they are persuaded that the most fatal policy which the Powers interested in the welfare of the inhabitants of that district could pursue, would be that of encouraging any expectation that the arrangement now laid down might be hereafter set aside.

The interest which Her Majesty's Government feel in the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon extends to all alike. But if called upon to express a preference, in consequence of the renewal of disturbance and civil war in the Lebanon, their feelings and their wishes would unquestionably be opposed to the success of that party, whichever it might be, which should have promoted a renewal of civil strife.

Accordingly I have to state to you, in reply to your letter, and to request you to announce to your constituents, that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared to counsel the Porte to disturb the arrangements now in force for the administration of the affairs of Mount Lebanon; and that if the Maronites wish to retain the good will of England, and to have a claim upon her good offices in an hour of need, they can only attain that object by conducting themselves peaceably, and by striving to live in amity with their neighbours and in obedience to the lawful commands of the authorities of the Porte.

You will doubtless consider that it is unnecessary, under existing circumstances, that you should take the trouble of pursuing your journey to this country.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Inclosure 4 in No. 18

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Aberdeen

(No. 126.)

My Lord,

Paris, March 4, 1844

THE Maronite Archbishop of Laodicea came to Paris some weeks ago, and has had two or three conferences with M. Guizot.

His object is to obtain from the Turkish Government through the influence of the Allies, the reinstatement in the Government of the Lebanon of one of the Shehab family in the person of the Emir Emin.

The Archbishop called upon me a few days ago, and requested that I would forward the letter inclosed herewith to your Lordship, adding that he was ready to proceed to London if I thought his doing so could in any way contribute to the success of the mission with which he was charged.

I consented to forward to your Lordship his letter, but discouraged him going to London, and if he had any such intention he has abandoned it.

I have since received a letter from him, a copy of which I inclose, with a petition addressed to Her Majesty's Government by the Maronites.

M. Guizot has promised to write to M. de Bourqueney on the subject of his application, but he has not held out to him any expectation that it will be successful at Constantinople. I believe that he (M. Guizot) has instructed M. de St. Aulaire to confer with your Lordship upon this subject.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure 5 in No. 18

Archbishop Murad to Lord Cowley.

Paris, 9 Février, 1844.

Excellence,

JE viens de recevoir de Syrie une lettre, avec la pétition ci-incluse pour le Gouvernement de la Reine, j'ai l'honneur de prier votre Excellence de vouloir bien la transmettre à son Gouvernement. Les Maronites supplient le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté de vouloir les protéger, ils lui rappellent ses engagements précédents et demandent qu'on fasse cesser l'anarchie et l'oppression qui pèsent sur les malheureux habitants de la Montagne en leur rendant la famille Shehab.

J'aurais envoyé à votre Excellence la copie textuelle de cette pièce si je n'avais pas été pressé par le temps.

Permettez, mon Excellence, de recommander de nouveau mes compatriotes à votre bienveillance, et daignez agréer, &c.

(Signé)

N. MURAD,

Archevêque de Laodicée, et Représentant de la Nation Maronite

No. 19

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 68.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 30, 1844.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 43 of the 19th of March, I have to acquaint your Excellency that I have since received a further letter from the Agent of the Maronites, Archbishop Murad, of which I inclose a copy for your Excellency's information, together with a copy of my reply; and in conformity with what is stated in that letter I have to request that your Excellency will furnish me with a report upon the several allegations contained in Archbishop Murad's letter.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Inclosure 1 in No. 19

Archbishop Murad to the Earl of Aberdeen.

Excellence,

Paris, 10 Avril, 1844.

J'AI reçu la lettre que votre Excellence m'a fait l'honneur de m'écrire en date du 19 Mars, 1844. J'apprends avec douleur que la Grande Bretagne semblerait abandonner actuellement la question du Gouvernement du Liban, croyant que les mesures prises jusqu'ici sont suffisantes pour le bien commun de ces contrées.

Je ne sais pas comment on pourrait obtenir ce bien en les laissant livrées à l'anarchie dans toute la Montagne.

Cela sent pas es kassanous seuls, si on n'aient à l'Arabie et pas non plus le chef Turc qui a reçu dernièrement l'autorité sur Deir-el-Kamar, quoiqu'aux termes du Traité du 7 Décembre, 1842, il ne dût pas avoir cette autorité. Tous ceux qui sont forts et audacieux commandent: les plus riches achètent la justice pour de l'argent, tandis que le peuple souffre et n'a aucune sûreté pour sa vie, sa propriété, et son honneur. C'est une ruine pour le Mont Liban, pour les Chrétiens, et pour les Druzes eux-mêmes. Les Chrétiens sont bien convaincus qu'ils ne peuvent pas vivre dans ce désordre, et les deux nations, moins quelques mauvais esprits, réclament hautement le retour de la famille Shehab. L'expérience a fait connaître à tous que sans cette famille on n'arrivera pas à la paix désirée.

Je crains que la vérité sur l'état des choses dans le Liban ne soit pas parvenue à votre Excellence. Peut-être est-il des gens intéressés à faire croire que les mesures adoptées sont efficaces et tendent à rétablir la concorde. Il n'est

Les Maronites désirent conserver la bienveillance de l'Angleterre au prix de tous les sacrifices, comme ils ont fait en 1840. Votre Excellence peut s'informer auprès de l'Amiral Napier de la conduite loyale des Maronites à l'égard de l'intervention des Anglais. Les Druses alors (il faut que votre Excellence s'en souvienne) étaient attachés au parti contraire. Nous espérons, comme nous espérons toujours, que nous serons heureux par la protection de la Grande Bretagne qui nous a été garantie. A la fin de sa lettre, votre Excellence annonce avec bonté que si les Maronites se conduisent pacifiquement, et démontrent la nécessité d'un appui, le Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique ne les abandonnera pas.

Nous acceptons ces gracieuses paroles de votre Excellence. Tout le monde connaît que nous sommes pacifiques depuis quatre ans dans ces malheureuses circonstances, et que nous nous sommes liés aux promesses des Cabinets Européens, et particulièrement à l'Angleterre. Quant à la nécessité dont parle votre Excellence, jamais il n'en a existé, et il ne peut exister une nécessité plus forte que celle d'aujourd'hui.

En conséquence nous recourons nouvellement à la bienveillance du Gouvernement Britannique. Nous le prions de considérer l'état déplorable du Mont Liban, et de lui rendre son ancienne situation, sans laquelle je l'ai dit et je le répéterai sans cesse, on n'obtiendra jamais ce que souhaitent sans doute les médiateurs; et ainsi, Excellence, devant Dieu et devant les hommes, vous aurez accompli les nobles devoirs d'une Grande Puissance.

Je suis, &c.,

(Signé) N. MURAD.

Archetique de Laodicee, et Representant de la Nation Maronite

Inclosure 2 in No. 19

Note des faits arrivés après la nomination dans le Mont Liban, de deux Kaimakams, l'un Maronite et l'autre Druse, dans l'année 1842, et installés le 1er Janvier, 1843.

QUANT à l'anarchie, elle règne librement dans le Mont Liban et elle est la source des revenus du Pacha et de ses subordonnés. Les homicides, les pillages continuent. Un homme seul ne peut pas se mettre en voyage pour aller à la distance d'une heure, sans être accompagné de quelques autres hommes armés.

On rencontre souvent des morts assassinés dans les chemins, même à un quart d'heure, à une demi-heure et une heure de distance de Beyrouth. On réclamait auprès des Kaimacins et ils répondaient qu'ils n'y pouvaient rien : on allait chez le Pacha pour obtenir justice, et il répondait "Cela ne fait rien."

Les familles Gabaischi et Dahdah sont en continuelles querelles et prêtes à se tuer l'une l'autre. Déjà il a péri quatre personnes de la famille Gabaischi et une de la famille Dahdah, elles sont toujours armées et prêtes à se détruire. Les populations entre elles souffrent beaucoup de ces violences. Elles ont réclamé auprès du Kaimacam pour qu'il pût remettre la paix et la tranquillité, et lui a encore répondu qu'il ne pouvait rien faire, parceque le Pacha ne veut pas que l'on rétablisse la concorde dans le Mont Lelan.

Après les conventions précédentes datées de 1841, le Liban devait payer à la Porte 1200 bourses comme tribut, et 2,300 bourses au Gouvernement du Mont Liban, à tous les employés, aux tribunaux, &c. Le Pacha s'est emparé de toutes ces sommes par ordre de la Porte, et avec ce produit il a payé les Kaimacams, afin qu'ils soient les instrumens de ses ordres et de ses volontés. Chaque fois qu'ils veulent faire leur devoir il leur montre de la défiance et les menace d'une destitution.

Le Pacha s'est encore emparé des rentes communales qui servaient pour le bien public, obligeant le Kaïnacani Maronite à payer pour les remplacer 109 000 piastres. Tout cela est contraire au Traité de 1841.

Parmi les Druses eux-mêmes il y a aussi de l'anarchie : ils se sont entretués dernièrement dans un village, et il en est mort trois et beaucoup sont blessés. Les paysans qui travaillent à la terre sont obligés d'avoir le fusil à côté de la enarrue

Carr. Bay commença les travaux. D'après Kaim et les premiers jour de Décembre 1843 il suscita d'abord une querelle entre les Druses et les Chrétiens, et ensuite il ordonna que l'on pillât et que l'on saqueât les Chrétiens : il y eut des morts et beaucoup de blessés.

Au nombre des conditions conclues à Constantinople le 7 Décembre, 1842, il était stipulé que l'on retirerait tous les Albanais de la Syrie, et cela n'a pas été exécuté. Tous les jours on en voit en Syrie et particulièrement à Beyrouth. Leur chef s'appelle Habas, et à Beyrouth il a autant d'influence que le Pacha. Le 8 Février les Albanais sont entrés dans le Mont Liban avec les autres troupes Turques, et certainement ils auront commis d'autres excès. Le Pacha de Beyrouth a pris par le moyen du Kaïmacam, dans la Province du Kesrouan, 60,000 piastres avant de faire exécuter l'ordre de Constantinople qui assurait que cette province ne payerait pas d'impôts pendant trois ans en dédommagement de ce qu'elle avait souffert en 1840. Il en est résulté qu'à l'occasion de ce paiement, plusieurs individus de la famille Caseno se sont mis en division et en désaccord. Une partie de cette famille avec ses chiens a fait une insurrection et excitait le peuple à se réunir pour se révolter contre le Kaïmacam et le Pacha, et il n'y a pas eu peu de dommages pour cette province. Chaque membre de cette famille Caseno suit un parti différent, et le Pacha se rejouit de cette division.

Dernièrement à Constantinople, avec le consentement des Ambassadeurs
la Porte, en opposition au Traité de 1842, a nommé un chef Turc

...quence, la protection de l'Europe a causé au Mont Liban la haine acharnée des Turcs, une ruine telle qu'il faudra plus de cent ans pour recouvrer la splendeur de 1840 la perte de la famille Schiab, unique protectrice du Mont Liban, la destruction des privilèges séculiers, le malheur d'être soumis à beaucoup de chefs, ennemis les uns des autres.

Le Liban est un pays pauvre, et les faibles ressources qu'il possède ne sont qu'une faible partie des excès consommés, au vaivautte qui règne au Liban, et saurait sur quelles raisons les Puissances pourraient appuyer pour faire rendre au Liban une situation qu'il regrette avec tant de douleur.

Inclosure 3 in No. 19

The Earl of Aberdeen to Archbishop Wharfedale

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 27, 1844

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your letter of the 10th instant, in which you again urge Her Majesty's Government to contralate to the reinstatement of the Shehab family in the Government of Mount Lebanon, and I have to acquaint you that I propose to call upon Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople and Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, for a report upon the various allegations which your letter contains.

Under these circumstances it is unnecessary that I should on this occasion enter into an examination of those allegations; and I will only observe that the construction which you have placed upon the latter part of my letter of the 18th of March is erroneous, and that Her Majesty's Government are by no means prepared to enter into any such engagement as that which, doubtless from the incorrectness of the translation which has been placed before you, your letter attributes to them.

I am, &c.

I am, &c.

Signed) ABERDEEN.

Petition from the Maronites to the British Government

Pétition adressée au très Puissant et très Glorieux Gouvernement Britannique, que Dieu garde sous sa protection.

NOUS, vos humbles serviteurs, Chrétiens du Mont Liban, nous osons élever la voix pour exprimer l'état souffrant et tyrannique sous lequel nous gémissons depuis si long temps de la part des Druses, au point que le désespoir est à son comble et que nous sommes réduits à l'extrémité. Ceux d'entre nous qui habitent parmi eux et dans leurs voisinages ont eu les premiers à essayer toutes leurs forces et toutes les ressources de leur courage et de leur fidélité, mais la plupart d'entre nous, de chercher un refuge loin de notre pays, en vain nous avons réclamé pour la restitution de nos biens, en vain nous avons imploré pour la nomination d'un Gouverneur Chrétien, mais toutes nos attentes ont été frustrées, et malgré que nous eûmes dans le temps de bonnes promesses de la part de la Sublime Porte, il ne nous a été fait aucune justice, au contraire, par un ordre émané du Pacha de Saida il est enjoint à tous les Chrétiens habitant le pays Druse et ses dépendances, de se soumettre sous le joug des Druses, c'est à dire de ceux même qui ont sucé notre sang, ravi l'honneur de nos vierges; qui ont enlevé nos biens, incendié nos maisons et nos églises, foulé aux pieds la Sainte Croix et nos plus sacrés reliques, en usant les vêtements sacerdotaux à des parures de leurs femmes. Grand Dieu! qui pourrait subaister sous une pareille tyrannie et sous la terreur de voir renouveler chaque jour les atrocités. Nos pleurs et nos gémissements ne cessent d'être offerts à la pitié le cœur du Gouvernement de la Sublime Porte envers ses sujets les plus fidèles et les plus dévoués, en conséquence c'est maintenant vers le puissant et miséricordieux Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique que nous tournons nos yeux avec un cœur déchuré et abattu, pour implorer sa puissante protection, nous lui adressons conséquemment cette pétition par l'entremise de son Eminence l'Archevêque Nicolas Murad, notre délégué et procureur-général de la nation Chrétienne du Mont Liban, homme vertueux et digne de notre confiance; si par une insigne faveur vous voudriez lui accorder une entrevue, il pourrait mieux vous expliquer de vive voix nos souffrances et nos tribulations, espérant qu'il vous excitera à la pitié pour que vous fassiez de manière à faire rentrer au Gouvernement la famille Shehab en y plaçant à la tête l'Emir Beehir ou son fils l'Emir Emina, car à défaut de ces deux personnages il est prouvé qu'il est impossible pour nous de vivre plus longtemps dans ces pays, ainsi que vous le comprendrez mieux par notre susdit délégué.

C'est enfin à votre Sublime Gouvernement, c'est à vos cœurs généreux dont tout le monde vante la magnanimité et la miséricorde, auxquels nous en appelons, prosternés devant vous, nous vous supplions d'avoir pitié de nos malheurs, et qu'en prêtant une oreille attentive à tout ce que notre délégué vous communiquera, vous voudriez faire de manière à nous sauver des mains de nos ennemis les Druses, d'en obtenir les indemnités de nos effets volés, et d'acquiescer finalement nos anciens gouverneurs les Shehabs, et par ce moyen de pouvoir jouir paix et tranquillité, et de prier et faire des vœux continuels au ciel pour la prospérité et le bonheur de votre glorieux empire.

Donné le 11 Mars, 1844.

Vos Serviteurs,
(Signé) Les habitants Chrétiens
du Mont Liban.

Vos Serviteurs,
(Signé) Les Chefs de la Maison Elheire.
Les Chefs de la Maison El Daher
Les Chefs de la Maison Elrusud.
Les Chefs de la Maison Eldadah
Les Chefs de la Maison Hassan
Les Chefs de la Maison Haren.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received May 22.)

(No. 62.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 2, 1844

THE accounts which I have lately received from Colonel Rose, of the state of Syria, are far from satisfactory. In speaking of Namik Pasha and the camp of 25,000 men which he was endeavouring to form near Aleppo, Colonel Rose expresses a serious opinion that by concentrating the regular troops dispersed over Syria, the Pasha will expose Jerusalem, Damascus, and the other cities, to no small danger of disturbance, and that in such a state of things there is little prospect of our seeing tranquillity confirmed in Mount Lebanon, and the Porte's decision as to the remaining points at issue sincerely carried into effect.

With respect to the military operations I am inclined to think that Colonel Rose's suggestions will not be entirely overlooked; but as to what concerns the interests of Mount Lebanon, I observe a degree of indifference which does not augur well for the future welfare of the Mountain and the confidence which I held upon this subject with my colleagues of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia, some days ago, has hitherto produced no positive result in consequence of the Porte's allegation that no advices corresponding to those transmitted by the Consuls had been yet received from Assaad Pasha.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 79.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 31, 1844.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 68, of the 30th of April, I inclose for your Excellency's perusal two letters which I have received from Archbishop Murad, with translations of the petitions from the Maronites inclosed therein, and a copy of a letter which I have written to the Archbishop in reply to his letter of the 4th instant.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 22

Archbishop Murad to the Earl of Aberdeen.

Milord,

Paris, le 4 Mai, 1844

JE remercie votre Excellence des bonnes intentions qu'elle a manifestées en faveur des Maronites, qui espèrent tout de sa sollicitude et de son humanité. Ils ne peuvent croire que votre Excellence ne fasse pas tout ce qui est dans l'intérêt de leur nation et ne veuille pas le rétablissement de l'ancien ordre de choses qui seul rendra la tranquillité au Liban. J'envoie à votre Excellence une supplique des principaux habitants du Liban, en la priant de la prendre en sérieuse considération.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) N. MURAD,
Archevêque Maronite de Laodicée

Inclosure 2 in No. 22

Petition from the Maronites to the Earl of Aberdeen.

Excellence,

NOUS avons déjà envoyé en dernier lieu, une autre supplique en date du 14 Mars au Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, par le moyen de notre spécial délégué, Monseigneur Nicolas Murad, Archevêque de Laodicee, dans laquelle nous avons exposé assez nos douleurs. La Porte voulant nous soumettre en partie aux Druses, nous n'accepterons jamais devant aucun danger une pareille condition et nous résisterons jusqu'à la mort. Cela est contre nature et contre toutes les lois du monde. D'abord ce sont des gens sauvages qui ne croient pas en Dieu. Ce sont eux qui ont saccagé nos couvens, nos églises, nos monastères et les ordres religieux, ils ont massacré nos prêtres, nos religieux, nos religieuses, ils ont méprisé notre religion et porté par dérision les cérémonies du culte chrétien. Les infidèles seraient nos chefs! Nous pourrions les accepter pour tels! Peut-on confier l'agneau au loup? Ce qui nous lésait aussi, c'est ce point, c'est ce point, c'est d'abord du Colonel Rose en faveur des Druses et qu'il a actuellement déclaré publiquement: il a tout fait auprès du Pacha pour nous contraindre à nous soumettre, et il a dit qu'il était nécessaire pour nous de nous soumettre à son conseil, à son joug. Il a parlé ainsi: "puisque vous êtes ruinés et massacrés, vous devrez vous soumettre aux Druses." Nous avons trouvé cela étrange; parceque d'une part nous voyons que le Gouvernement Britannique est au sein de quatre autres Puissances pour protéger les Chrétiens et rétablir la paix et leur rendre leurs foyers, et d'autre part nous voyons que votre Consul de Colonel Rose, étudie les moyens de nous ruiner et ne suit que les impulsions de son caractère furieux et de ses inclinations pour les Druses.

Nous pouvons vous assurer que ce Consul, au lieu de faire honneur à sa Cour, ne fait que le contraire par sa conduite. Si votre Excellence connaissait cette conduite, qui n'est bonne ni devant Dieu ni devant les hommes, elle ne serait pas satisfaite; il s'est aliéné le cœur du peuple par cette conduite qui a diminué l'amour qu'ils professaient pour l'Angleterre. Nous avons voulu vous signaler ces faits. Nous prions votre clémence et votre bonté d'ordonner au Colonel Rose de cesser une fois de nous persécuter, et en même temps nous vous conjurons ardemment d'accomplir les promesses qui nous ont été faites par vos agents MM Napier et Wood, et de rendre au Liban la famille de Shehab, sans laquelle il n'y aura de repos au Liban, ni pour nous, ni pour les Druses, ni pour personne. Nous avons confiance dans votre humanité. Votre nom est publiquement honoré à cause de vos qualités et de votre esprit de justice et de vos talens si renommés.

Dans cette espérance nous ne cessons d'adresser des prières à Dieu pour votre conservation et pour qu'il vous accorde tout le bonheur que vous pouvez désirer.

*Les Chefs Députés des Chrétiens du Liban.**(Suivent 289 Empreintes des Carbets des principaux Chrétiens.)*

3 Avril, 1844

Inclosure 3 in No. 22.

Archbishop Murad to the Earl of Aberdeen

Excellence,

Paris, ce 9 Mai, 1844.

APRÈS avoir expédié la lettre que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous écrire en date du 4 courant, j'ai reçu avec grand plaisir celle de votre Excellence du 27 Avril. J'y ai vu, que votre Excellence veut prendre des renseignements auprès de son Excellence l'Ambassadeur d'Angleterre à Constantinople et de Monsieur le Consul-Général de Sa Majesté Britannique en Syrie, relativement aux diverses assertions que j'ai eu l'honneur de vous présenter.

Cette résolution prise par votre Excellence me comble de joie, parceque

ce que j'ai dévoilé à votre Excellence non seulement est vrai, mais n'est que la centième partie des faits. Actuellement je vais me permettre de vous adresser quelques observations.

D'abord il m'est douloureux de parler contre mon ami intime tel que Monsieur le Colonel Rose, mais les nouvelles que j'ai reçues récemment du Liban annoncent que la conduite de Mr. Rose dans les divers événemens récents a été bien contraire aux intérêts des Chrétiens du Mont Liban, ainsi que votre Excellence l'apprendra par la supplique ci-jointe, qui lui est directement adressée.

D'après ces faits je doute que le Consul de Sa Majesté Britannique fasse un rapport conforme au mien.

La conséquence je laisse à votre bienveillance et sagesse d'agir comme Dieu l'inspirera, parce que je me confie en votre conscience, en votre humanité, et je ne doute pas que par votre moyen le Liban n'obtienne l'ancien établissement des choses. Ce sera le repos du Liban et le terme des ennuis que nous causons à votre Excellence.

J'ai l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) N MURAD,

Archevêque de Laodicee, Représentant de la Nation Maronite

Inclosure 4 in No. 22

Petition from the Maronites to the Earl of Aberdeen.

A Son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères du Gouvernement de Sa Majesté Britannique, que Dieu protège.

NOUS écrivons l'honneur d'adresser à votre Excellence, et par l'entremise de notre procureur Monseigneur l'Evêque Nicolas Mourad, diverses requêtes dont la dernière en date du 11 Mars dernier, par lesquelles nous avons exposé l'état le plus critique et le plus désespéré sous lequel nous gémissons, à cause de la résolution de la Sublime Porte qui insiste à nous assujétir sous la domination des Druses, chose impossible et contraire à notre nature et à nos lois, préférant la mort plutôt que de tomber sous un tel esclavage; et comment pourrions nous être gouvernés par un peuple idolâtre qui nie l'existence de Dieu et qui nous a accablé par le fer et le feu, en nous ruinant de fond en comble, sans avoir respecté nos églises, nos couvens, et nos maisons; ce serait enfin comme si l'on proposait le loup au gouvernement des brebis; mais ce qui nous afflige d'autant plus c'est de voir que votre Consul à Beyrouth, le Colonel Rose, prend une part active en faveur des Druses; avant quelque temps il agissait en secret, tandis que maintenant il s'est déclaré ouvertement, en faisant tout son possible de concert avec le Pacha afin de nous y contraindre. Il a juré devant tout le monde qu'il persistera dans son projet aussi longtemps qu'il sera en vie, et envers nous-mêmes il s'est adressé avec ces propres paroles, "N'importe si vous vous ruinez ou même si vous avez à souffrir la mort, il faudra en tout cas que vous vous soumettiez sous les Druses."

Ce cruel procédé de la part du Colonel Rose nous étourdit infiniment, car d'un côté nous voyons que votre Sublime Gouvernement a été l'instigateur des autres Quatre Puissances pour prendre ensemble sous leur protection les Chrétiens du Mont Liban en leur faisant restituer leurs privilèges et leur tranquillité; et de l'autre côté nous voyons que contre cet esprit de bienfaisance et d'humanité le Colonel Rose agit avec un zèle infatigable et par tous les moyens possibles pour nous porter le dernier coup et nous ruiner de fond en comble.

Nous assurons votre Excellence que cet homme agit contre l'honneur et les intérêts du nom Britannique, et si votre Excellence connaissant tous ses procédés qui sont contraires à la loi divine et humaine, elle ne les approuverait pas; en outre il serait la cause du refroidissement de cet amour ardent et de cet attachement que tous les Chrétiens de la Syrie ont toujours eu envers votre sublime Gouvernement.

Nous supplions votre Excellence pour la supplier de nous donner une main secourable, et d'ordonner au Colonel Rose qu'il cesse ses persécutions contre nous. Nous vous implorons donc de lâcher

M

à nous faire accorder nos privilèges et la restitution de nos anciens droits et le retour de nos vieux gouverneurs de la maison Shehab ainsi qu'il nous a été promis dans le temps tant par votre sublime Gouvernement que par les Honorables Napier et Wood, car sans cela il serait impossible que la tranquillité se rétablisse : c'est enfin, après Dieu, de votre Excellence que nous attendons cette insigne faveur, c'est vers elle que nous étendons nos mains supplantes afin qu'elle aye pitié de nous et qu'elle nous rende la paix et la tranquillité, et nous ne cesserons jamais d'adresser nos vœux au ciel pour son bonheur et sa prospérité.

(Signé) Les Chrétiens du Mont Liban.

Le 3 Avril, 1844

Inclosure 5 in No. 22

The Earl of Aberdeen to Archbishop Marad.

Sir,

Foreign Office, May 18, 1844

I HAVE received your letter of the 4th of May, inclosing a petition dated the 31st of April, from the Christians of Mount Lebanon.

I have read with sentiments which I will not describe, the calumnious and unworthy statements set forth in that petition against a servant of the British Government, whose conduct has in every respect entitled him to their fullest approbation, and I regret that you, Sir, having been the personal friend of Colonel Rose, should have allowed yourself to be the channel of such statements.

It is my intention to transmit the original of that petition to Colonel Rose in order that he may be made acquainted with the names of the parties who have presumed to address to Her Majesty's Government such base and ungrateful insinuations against him.

The Christians of Mount Lebanon are much mistaken if they suppose that by the adoption of such a course they can shake the confidence which Her Majesty's Government justly repose in a public servant whose conduct is in their opinion without reproach, or that they can conciliate the good will of Her Majesty's Government to a cause which it is sought to support by such unworthy means.

Her Majesty's Government have no desire that one party rather than another should acquire ascendancy in Mount Lebanon, but that party, whichever it may be, which shall seek to perpetuate civil strife and set at naught the commands of its lawful Sovereign and the wishes and desires of the Powers of Europe for the peace and tranquillity of the Lebanon, will always be discountenanced by the British Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No 23

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 110.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 31, 1844

I OBSERVE with much concern that the affairs of Mount Lebanon are far from settling down into a state of permanent and wholesome tranquillity. The Druses are unwilling, it may be unable, to pay the amount of indemnity imposed upon them. The Maronites complain of being called upon to leave any considerable part of their population under the authority of a Druse Governor. The adherents of the Shehab family and the Roman Catholic clergy look with repugnance on an arrangement which excludes from power the line of their ancient Princes. The Turkish authorities may be fairly suspected of regarding with indulgence the failure of a plan which by its success would set the seal upon their discomfiture. The regrets, the intrigues, the

clamours of individuals prejudiced in their interest or disappointed in their ambition, augment the resistance proceeding from those sources of difficulty, and neither on the spot nor at the seat of Government is the influence of the Five Powers directed with union and energy to the accomplishment of an object adopted by common consent.

If a natural feeling of delicacy restrained those Powers from entering into the details of execution when they proposed a plan of settlement, it was not to be expected that the respective Governments would presume to supersede by a decided opinion of their own whatever might be prescribed by legitimate authority or supported by local experience. Unfortunately the resources of legitimate authority and of local experience have hitherto proved unequal to the occasion. The Pasha was not prepared to incur responsibility, and the Consuls, after much indecision and difference of opinion, have referred to Constantinople for instructions.

This general outline of the state of affairs in Lebanon may be easily filled up by details collected from the correspondence of Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria. But as Colonel Rose corresponds directly with the Foreign Office as well as with this Embassy, it may suffice for me to remind your Lordship of the principal points round which the opponents of the suspended arrangement respectively unite. They are only three in number. The local administration of Deir-el-Kamar; the indemnity chargeable on the Druses; and the Mookatas or districts of mixed population situated within the Government of the Druse Kaimacam.

It is not to be denied that considerable difficulties attend the solution of these questions. Deir-el-Kamar cannot be made over entirely to either party without some degree of injustice and a risk of eventual collision. The expedient of dividing its Government between both parties according to the population, is at best complicated and inconvenient. The amount of indemnity to be assessed upon the Druses appears to be heavy on the payers without being just to the claimants. In the Druse Mookatas a large Christian population requires to be placed under the Maronite Kaimacam, although the property of the soil is almost exclusively Druse.

With respect to the division of the country by a geographical or by a sectarian line it was understood from the beginning that amidst difficulties the least were attached to the adoption of the former principle. The only plausible reason for departing from that course would seem to be the objection which regards the Maronite labourers in the Druse Mookatas.

The reports of the several Consuls in Syria reached Constantinople long before Rifaat Pasha acknowledged the receipt of despatches from the Governor of Sidon. It was in ignorance of Asaad Pasha's opinion, as stated by himself to the Porte, that I attended a meeting of my colleagues at the International house. We all acknowledged, however, that the state of affairs in Mount Lebanon was so precarious as to require our immediate attention, and in this persuasion I did not hesitate to propose that after ascertaining the sentiments of the Turkish Cabinet, we should join with it in employing the full weight of our moral force to carry into effect, with such modifications as might help to facilitate their acceptance, the supplementary measures already adopted by the Porte.

The modifications to which I particularly alluded are those suggested by Colonel Rose as securities for the Maronite inhabitants of the mixed districts. On further examination others might perhaps be found.

The French Ambassador took a different view of the subject. His Excellency was pleased to despair of the possibility of carrying into execution, without hazarding a great effusion of blood, that plan which had been deliberately adopted by the Porte on the recommendation of the five principal Cabinets of Europe. He referred to the deliberations made in presence of Asaad Pasha by the several parties in Mount Lebanon, and to the opinion of Asaad Pasha himself. He declared his inability to take part in any fresh endeavour to obtain the acceptance of the existing arrangement, and proposed that we should follow his example by referring to our respective Courts for a re-consideration of the whole subject, founded on the necessity of adopting a new and more practicable arrangement.

The Intermuncio followed in the same line, and not only declined to take part in any combination for overcoming the scruples of the dissentient parties in

Sir, but declared that the late advices from Beyrout only confirmed the original conviction of his Government, and in proof of this assertion he read aloud an old instruction from Prince Mettermich, protesting, in the very moment of acceptance, against the arrangement recommended by the Five Powers and, as I had always understood, originally suggested by that Minister himself.

It thus becomes evident to the most careless observation that the Representatives of France and Austria, acting probably in concert, had joined their colleagues with a pre-determined resolution to treat the arrangement of 1842 as a thing condemned and cast aside, nor can it be doubted that their object in so treating it is to obtain room for the re-establishment of a single Maronite Chief over the whole of Mount Lebanon, and to select that chief, as before, from the discarded family of the Shehabs.

Your Lordship need not be reminded that such was the form of administration originally contemplated, but what was doubtful even then has not been made clear of difficulty since. The effect of intervening incidents cannot be entirely obliterated. Whatever be the system prescribed, there will be obstacles to surmount in carrying it out; and in proportion as one party is satisfied another will be disappointed. One thing is unquestionable: a surrender of the present arrangement without any serious and cordial effort to establish it would be a triumph yielded to intrigue and vacillation, without the certainty of any compensating advantage.

Such were the impressions with which I resisted the proposal of the French and Austrian Representatives, declaring that with the information before me I could not regard the experiment as having been fairly tried, or consent to abandon without necessity a position in which the concurrence of the Five Powers and of the Porte had placed me in common with my colleagues. It was not in my power to prevent the joint action of the Representatives from henceforth, but I succeeded in two things: first, in making it clear to them that I could not participate in a conclusion which, taken with reference to the whole range of circumstances, could only be considered as defective and hazardous or at best premature.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

P.S.—I have omitted to state in the body of this despatch, that the Russian and Prussian Envoys sided with me at the above-mentioned meeting. I have also to call your Lordship's attention to the copy and extract inclosed herewith, of despatches addressed to me by Colonel Rose.

S. C.

Inclosure 1 in No. 23.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning

Sir,

Beyrout, May 3, 1844

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that on the 26th ultimo, Assaad Pasha requested me to come to him so early as eight o'clock in the morning. On the 27th I again went to his Excellency. Assaad Pasha's object was to ask my advice as to the present state of affairs, which were as I have the honour now to relate.

The Shehab party had induced the Christians in the mixed populations to reject all the guarantees, as stated in my previous despatches, which had been proposed not only to alleviate their position but to render it positively secure against Druse misrule under the Pasha of Sidon.

So dangerous, so wicked I may say, had become the spirit of party, that two unfortunate Christians of Djezin who had endeavoured to induce their co-religionists of that town to accept the new form of Government, were cruelly assaulted by their fellow-townsmen, Shehabites, with swords, one receiving severe cuts on the head and the second having two of his fingers cut off. The former was left for dead. It is said that the family of Djinblat or the Druse Kaimacam had employed the sufferers to endeavour to overcome repugnance to what were after all the legitimate orders of the legitimate Government. Their

labours were so successful that it is stated that they had already induced 150 of their co-religionists to accept the new rule, when the opposite party, to put a stop to further conversion adopted the persuasion of the sword, a graphic illustration of their general feelings and conduct.

But the circumstances which had caused more uncertainty and evil than even the intrigues and insubordination of the Shehabites,—I mean the belief that the Austrian and French Consular Agents, and consequently their Governments, sympathized with discontent,—remained unremedied as regarded the people.

The result of circumstances had been, that the Consular Agents had, as regarded the new form of Government, come to a very propitious union of opinion, agreeing firstly, that the geographical division had been adopted; and secondly, that to remove points of doubt connected with it, the geographical division, Assaad Pasha should appoint a Medghis to determine what really were the ancient Mookatas.

But although the force of circumstances brought about by my means (thus I have the honour to say confidentially) had effected an union, when before there was such marked dissent, yet this union was only partially, if believed at all by the people, although the knowledge of it by them was most desirable, for if certainty of disunion had produced such evil, certainly as to union of opinion was likely, even so late, to produce in some measure proportionate good.

I therefore advised Assaad Pasha to convoke the Consular Agents, to make any communication which he thought fit as to the state of the country to them, and then summon the Maronite Kaimacam, Bishop Tubis, and a few of the most respectable Christian deputies, making to them in our presence the following communications:

1st. That the Five Great Powers had in their friendship recommended to the Porte the adoption of the form of government of the two Kaimacams. That the Porte appreciating the friendly disposition of her faithful Allies, had adopted the recommendation.

2ndly. That as a detail of that new form of Government, the Porte had adopted the geographical form of Government and ordered the execution of it with all the suggested guarantees.

3rdly. That the Consular Agents of the Great Powers had with the view of fixing the boundaries of the Mookatas, recommended the nomination of a boundary Medghis.

Assaad Pasha then asked me whether after making this announcement he should ask the deputies whether they would obey or not. I replied that as the servant of my Government, I could not bear any question which made the obedience of the subject hypothetical, that the advantage and object of the meeting was to prove that the Powers, the Porte, the Representatives at Constantinople, and the Consuls at Beyrout, were united in opinion as to the measure in which all these elements had been associated, and that a certainty on the part of the people that they stood alone in their opposition must weaken their position.

All was done as I recommended.

The answer made by Bishop Tubis on the part of the deputies, was a reference to the petition presented to Assaad Pasha a month ago, in other words a decided refusal.

The petition in question set forth in glowing colours the impossibility of the Christians accepting Druse rule, that this sect were without religion, had dishonoured their churches, killed their co-religionists, and inflicted on them all the horrors of civil war.

Everybody must feel for the position of the Christians under Druse rule, but every possible remedy had been given in the shape of guarantee, but which a spirit of party rejects without even trial or consideration.

The Druse Kaimacam and two chiefs were then called in, and questioned closely as to the indemnities. Assaad Pasha had before informed us that they had accepted the new form of Government.

Their replies as to the indemnities were evasive; they stated that they had offered to pay 3000 purses, but one of them made this even conditional on the acceptance of the new form of Government by the Christians of the mixed population. The other, the chief spokesman, the Emir Emin Raslan, tried to cover

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what is certainly now clearly the firm purpose of the Druses, not to pay the 13,000 purses indemnity unless forced, by saying that they would always obey the orders of the Government according to their power.

It seems that Assaad Pasha had offered to take 10,000 purses, and to refer the matter, as regarded the remainder, to the Porte.

Assaad Pasha refers the matter to the Porte stating that unless he is empowered to use force and has a sufficient force, he cannot put into execution either the measure of the Government or of the indemnity.

It appears that he did not refer the matter, as he stated he intended to do a month ago; the reason he assigned is, that he still had hopes of terminating the two matters in question.

Assaad Pasha told us, alone, that he ought not to have delayed putting into execution the orders of an imperial firman, that it was quite against usage to do so, but that the circumstance that the Five Powers were connected with the matter in question rendered the case exceptional. His Excellency before breaking up, most emphatically asked the French Consul if there were no chance of settling the matter of the Government here without a reference to the capital, when that gentleman replied, that there was none, and that a categorical and final order from the Porte could alone terminate it, an opinion in which all my colleagues and myself entirely agree. But I beg to observe that an imposing force must watch over the execution of both the pending measures.

I still think it right to represent to your Excellency that the question will never be satisfactorily settled unless precise and clear instructions are sent to the Austrian and French Consular Agents. Indeed it would have been far better if the Austrian Government had maintained its former neutrality; for the late proceedings of her Agent here have only made the confusion more confused, although the servant of such a legitimate country, he has sympathized with popular agitation and the disobedience of the subject, then the uneasiness of his novel position causes continued contradiction and change of statement which are remarkable.

In illustration. In writing, M. d'Adelbourg has stated already that the geographical division has been adopted, for I have a document in my possession in which he says

"Tous tiennent pour adopté le système de la division géographique du Liban, puisque tous admettent que la dite montagne à l'exception de Heir-el-Kamar, est divisée en deux portions, une Maronite et l'autre Druse; que la portion appelée Maronite est gouvernée par des chefs Maronites et la portion Druse par des chefs Druses, que la nationalité des gouvernés est indifférente dans ce partage, et que par conséquent il n'y a lieu de douter du principe."

Nothing can be more satisfactory or precise than this; yet after the receipt of despatches from the Count de Stürmer on the 2nd instant, in the teeth of his written statement, M. d'Adelbourg said to me that "proprement" he did not know that the geographical division had been adopted, but this cannot be so much matter of wonder, because by a despatch which M. d'Adelbourg read to me yesterday from M. de Stürmer, I see that there exists on his part also the same assumed ignorance of facts, unaccountable unless there is a desire to frustrate the new form of Government by doubt, disunion and passive resistance. M. de Stürmer states therein to M. d'Adelbourg, that the meeting of the Representatives, which your Excellency mentions to me, had produced no result, although the agreement that the geographical division was the right one must be considered as a decided and important result.

The French Consul's opinions also are again becoming very variable. This gentleman goes on leave to France, leaving M. Poujade in his place. M. d'Adelbourg throughout the meeting showed feeling amounting to irritation in favour of the Christian deputies—he did not rise when the Druse Kaunacem and chiefs came in to the meeting as did his colleagues, although he had done so, like them, on the entry of the Christians; and when the Druse Emir Esma Raslan brought in a petition from the Christians, Greeks, of his mookatas, in favour of his rule, that gentleman examined the signatures and expressed himself in a manner as if he thought them false, a proceeding which could not have been very flattering to ten of the petitioners who were present.

However, should it be decided on at Constantinople that the settlement of the detail of the geographical question should be submitted to a boundary Medghis, on which point the Consular Agents were agreed on as is stated in my dis-

patch No. 19, to your Excellency, M. d'Adelbourg and myself are of opinion that the best construction of the Medghis would be that it shall consist of six Christians and six Druses with the Pasha of Sidon as referer, the evil of venality in this functionary cannot be altogether got over, but it is one common to the empire, and a desirable substitute is unfortunately not to be found from Gaza to the Euphrates. The fear of the Consuls would in a measure diminish the evil.

A despatch which M. Basily read to me last night, very much overrates the number of the Christian population in the Druse districts, the numbers were given him by the French Consul. He was to have sent to me for the correct estimation, but he did not do so. M. Basily has also made too much of the feeling against the Maronite Kaunacem.

I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency copy of the list of the geographical districts as given to me by Assaad Pasha, and which he ordered to be considered as law, that is, the order of the Sultan. M. d'Adelbourg in a despatch sent by the last Austrian steamer, sent the same list clearly defined to M. de Stürmer. Whether it will be shown, I know not; probably not.

I have, &c,
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 to No. 23

List of Christian and Druse Mookatas, being the detail of the Geographical Division of the Mookatas ordered by the Porte to be put into execution

The Christian Mookatas

El Meten and its dependencies
Kesrouan.
Gazir
El Fetouh.
The Province of Djebail and its dependencies.

The Druse Mookatas.

The Lower Gharb
El Shakkbar and El Manusif.
El Arkooob.
El Djourd
The Upper Gharb
El Shoof
The Mount Rihan
The district of Kharroob.
The district of Djezin.
The district of Zafah

N.B.—The Sahel, plain of Beyrout, is claimed by both Druses and Christians

Inclosure 3 in No. 23

Extract of a despatch from Colonel Rose.

Beyrout, March 23, 1844

KNOWING from Assaad Pasha that anything which I proposed to facilitate the settlement of the question would be agreed to by his Excellency, I suggested, in a conciliatory spirit, important additions to the guarantees in favour of the Christian interest, additions which influential Christians had told me would overcome the repugnance to Druse rule.

1. That the Vakeels should not be under the control of either the Druse

Kaimacam or Feudal Lord, or removable at their pleasure; that they should only be under the authority of the Master of Dron a maternal guarantee, because thus the Vakeel without fear might report misconduct. That this privilege should be assured by a firman.

That the Christian Vakeels in the Druse districts might collect the Miri, or land-tax, from their co-religionists, thus entrance into the Christians' houses was avoided.

2. The plain of Beyrout, or rather the three villages of Haddet, Baabda, and Wad Shaffar because bordering on the Christian country, had been already ceded to it.

3. That the old feudal rights of two Christian villages in the Druse country should be renewed and that they should be governed by Emir Shukh, under the Druse Kaimacam.

No. 24.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 24.)

(No. 117.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 3, 1844.

It is evident, from the language of Rifaat Pasha within the last two or three days, that the Porte does not intend to give up the adopted arrangement in Mount Lebanon without another more serious effort to carry it into execution. In a few days I shall probably be informed more completely of the Porte's intentions, and the Sultan's approaching return will afford the council an early opportunity of coming to a final determination. In the mean time I have ascertained that the Captain Pasha is to take his squadron to the coast of Syria. He is now in attendance on the Sultan, but the ships appropriated to this service are already at the Dardanelles, and they will perhaps proceed on the voyage at once.

Although I am assured by Rifaat Pasha that the Porte has no intention of employing troops for the enforcement of its measures in Mount Lebanon, I trust that no attempt will be made to carry those measures into effect by a more determined expression of the Sultan's will, without the presence of a much larger military force than at present exists in that neighbourhood.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 25.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 104.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 8, 1844.

The agreement which is contained in your Excellency's despatch No. 110, of the 30th of May, of the disposition manifested by the Representatives of Austria and France, to concur in recommending that the system of Government for Mount Lebanon, agreed upon in December, 1842, between the Five Powers and the Porte, should be set aside in order to substitute for it the sole rule of a member of the Shehab family, has been closely followed by communications to the same effect from the respective Governments, as your Excellency will perceive by the inclosed copies of despatches from Her Majesty's Ambassadors at Vienna and at Paris, and from Prince Metternich to the Austrian Minister in this country, which the latter has placed in my hands.

The sentiments of Her Majesty's Government are expressed in my despatch to Lord Cowley of the 11th inst., and by which you will perceive that Her Majesty's Government are not prepared at present to concur in the overthrow of a system which they do not consider to have had a fair trial.

I do not forward to your Excellency copies of Colonel Rose's despatches

Nos. 21, 22, and 23, of the 7th, 8th, and 9th of June, because I doubt not that he has long since transmitted them to you himself, but I think it right to mention, with reference to the observation in his despatch No. 22, upon the absence of seals and signatures to the Maronite petition, which was the same as that inclosed in my despatch to your Excellency No. 43, of the 19th of March, that a translation only of the petition was sent to Colonel Rose, but that the original of it, which I have now sent to him, was numerously signed and sealed.

I inclose a copy of my despatch to Colonel Rose, transmitting to him copy of that to Lord Cowley.

I am, &c.
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Inclosure 1 in No. 26

Sir Robert Gordon to the Earl of Aberdeen.

(No. 48)

My Lord,

Vienna, June 16, 1844.

SIR STRATFORD CANNING'S despatch No. 110, to your Lordship, on the affairs of Mount Lebanon, which goes by this messenger, is of such importance, and so clearly implies that the Internuncio has, together with the French Ambassador, seceded from the course which had been prescribed to them, without any reasonable justification, that I have judged it necessary to seek for some explanation from Prince Metternich on this subject, and I have thought the readiest way to obtain it was to communicate to his Highness the substance of the above despatch.

I do not find that in declining to enter into a close examination of this difficult question, with a view to a satisfactory settlement on its present basis, the Internuncio has acted under any direct instructions from Prince Metternich, although in point of fact instructions have been sent within the last ten days to that Minister, which, had they been received, might have fully authorized him to follow the line which has been quoted and objected to by Sir Stratford Canning.

A copy of these late instructions, dated on the 11th inst., will shortly be communicated to your Lordship by Baron Neumann. They state in substance that as Prince Metternich has from the first believed the return of a Maronite chief of the Shehab family to the Government of the Mountain was indispensable to the restoration of peace in Syria, now that the combination which had been recommended instead of it had failed, and that not only Assad Pasha but the Consuls of the Allied Powers at Beyrout, had pronounced an arrangement on any other terms to be impracticable, his Highness was anxious that the Allied Governments should adopt his original opinions, and urge the Porte to re-invest the Maronite chief with the supreme authority.

I am far from suspecting the Austrian authorities of a want of sincerity in their endeavours to carry out the arrangement of 1842, but I have plainly stated to Prince Metternich that they were to blame for having come too hastily to the conclusion that its accomplishment was hopeless, and Colonel Rose's reports to Sir Stratford Canning proved that these last instructions to the Internuncio had been founded on an incorrect view of the real state of affairs at Beyrout. It was clear that the British Agents, as well there as at Constantinople, did not despair of success, if unanimity could be preserved in the allied councils; and I was pleased to learn from Prince Metternich that, in consequence of the communication which I had made to him, he would forthwith dispatch fresh instructions to Baron Stürmer, requiring him to support any reasonable propositions suggested by Sir Stratford Canning for effecting the existing arrangement.

He has assured me that it is his wish that this should be done, and that in the event of a total failure of the trial, he trusts that the expedient of nominating a single Maronite chief of the Shehab family to govern Mount Lebanon will be resorted to with the consent of the British Government.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) R. GORDON

Lord Cowley to the Earl of Aberdeen.

(No. 321.)

My Lord,

Peru, June 28, 1844.

I HAVE read with attention the despatches from Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning, upon the state of the Lebanon, inclosed in your Lordship's No. 174.

Since reading these despatches I have been informed by Count Appony, the Austrian Ambassador, that he has lately received instructions from Prince Metternich to propose to the Court of France to join that of Vienna in making a representation to the Ottoman Government upon the expediency of appointing a member of the Shehab family to preside over the affairs of the Lebanon.

That he had communicated the substance of his instructions to M. Guizot, who had expressed his readiness to act in concert with the Austrian Government at Constantinople with a view to the attainment of this object. Count Appony further informed me that similar instructions to those which he had received, had been forwarded to the Baron de Neumann, with a view to engaging Her Majesty's Government to unite their efforts to those of Austria and France for the purpose above mentioned.

Upon my informing M. Guizot of the communication which had been made to me by Count Appony, he said that some weeks ago he had expressed an opinion to M. de Barneville that the only chance of restoring tranquillity in the Lebanon would be by the appointment of one of the Shclab family (the Emir Emin) to the Government of that district. He had also he said instructed the French Ambassador in London to confer with your Lordship upon this subject, and that the arrangements made by the Porte upon the representations of the Allied Sovereigns, had not had the effect of tranquillising the country. Your Lordship's attention, he added, would doubt be more immediately drawn to the subject by the communications you would receive from the Baron de Neumann.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) COWLEY.

Inclosure 3 in No. 25

Prince Metternich to Baron Neumann.—(Communicated to the Earl of Aberdeen by Baron Neumann, July 3.)

Monsieur le Baron.

Vienne, le 22 Juin, 1844.

JE vous ai prévenu par le dernier courrier Anglais, que par une prochaine occasion je vous parlerais des affaires du Liban. Je m'acquitterai aujourd'hui de cette tâche.

Vous trouverez ci-jointe la copie des directions que j'ai adressées à l'Inter-nonce le 11 et le 18 Juin. Vous aurez lieu de vous convaincre qu'entre la première et la seconde de ces dépêches il n'y a aucune différence quant aux principes, et que celle qui s'y trouve ne tient qu'au changement qu'a éprouvé la situation de l'affaire entre les dates de ma correspondance.

Un sort malheureux s'appesantit sur les affaires du Levant; elles surgissent pour ne se régler qu'aux dépens des restes de vie de la Porte. Il en est ainsi de ce que l'on qualifie de question du Liban, et qui, en conscience, ne devrait compter que comme question de pure administration intérieure Ottomane.

Pour nous, M. le Baron, qui ne cherchons dans les affaires du Liban pour autre chose que ce qui en constitue l'essence, qui n'y mettons ni n'en retirons rien, mais qui prenons la question telle qu'elle est et pour ce qu'elle vaut, nous regrettons sincèrement que de cette affaire, engagée comme elle vient de l'être,

devoit ressortir des complications administratives et politiques dans le Levant, qu'il eût été heureux de voir évitées.

Toute affaire se compose des élémens qui lui sont propres et de ceux qu'd'autres peuvent y introduire. A mon avis, ceux que renferme la question du Liban sont les suivans. La Montagne l'emporte en Syrie sur la Plaine; c'est en général le cas partout où les montagnards se trouvent en contact avec les habitans d'un pays bas. Les premiers ont une supériorité naturelle plus grande que les seconds, et ce point est celui qui fait tout le bon ou mal d'une cause. Ils sont plus nombreux, ils ont plus de courage, ils ont plus de force physique, ils ont plus de ressources dans leur situation géographique.

La Maronite est par conséquent le plus ancien et le plus pur des
passés sans doute au sein de la population chrétienne du Liban, et
leurs cultes et leurs usages. Les Maronites sont par conséquent les
Maronites et les Druses. Ils se trouvent en deux groupes, l'un
cinq à un, et la différence qui existe entre eux vient de la
calcul; les Maronites sont Chrétiens, et les Druses ont une
s'il est difficile mais plus ou moins possible de pondérer l'influence qu'
dogmes connus exercent sur ceux qui les professent, cette possibilité n'existe
plus là où l'évaluation est privée de son point de départ.

De quoi doit-il s'agir aux yeux des Puissances dans ce qui regarde le Liban? Nous regardons la réponse comme donnée. Il s'agit de se prononcer pour l'emploi des moyens les plus propres à assurer la paix entre les papas et leur soumission à l'autorité souveraine du Sultan, il s'agit, en un mot, de ce qui forme la condition immuable de la durée de l'Empire Ottoman comme de tout autre empire!

et le degré de civilisation ne sont pas les mêmes, se trouvent en contact entre elles, celle qui est la plus éclairée et la plus forte en nombre doit l'emporter sur celle qui est placée sous les conditions inverses. C'est ce qui de temps immémorial avait eu lieu dans le Liban. Les chefs de la Montagne étaient Maronites et leur Conseil était composé d'individus pris dans les deux populations.

labons.

Je n'entrerai point ici dans l'analyse des discussions qui, entre les années 1840 et 1842, ont eu lieu entre les Cours de l'Europe et la Porte au sujet de l'établissement d'un ordre de choses admissible dans l'intérêt de la paix dans le Liban. — Le Liban qui au fond est la Syrie. Les archives de l'Ambassade en renferment les détails. Il me suffira de rappeler que dans tous les temps nous nous sommes prononcés pour un rapprochement entre le nouvel ordre des choses et l'ancien, et que voyant que l'objet n'était pas à attendre, nous avons, en désespoir de cause, mis en avant une idée de moyen terme qui n'a été adoptée par les Cours et par la Porte. L'idée de ne rien changer à cet ordre des choses ne nous serait point venue, c'est l'inefficacité connue des mesures arrêtées, bien ou mal exécutées d'importance, qui a remis l'affaire en discussion. Le 11 Juin nous avons lieu de regarder l'impossibilité que les choses restassent placées dans le Liban ainsi qu'elles le sont comme démontrées aux yeux d'Assaad Pacha et des Consuls. Le 18 nous avons appris que le Divan, soutenu par l'opinion de Seraskier et de l'Empereur, avait décidé de l'expédition de l'Armée Impériale en Syrie. Le 18 nous avons appris que le Divan, soutenu par l'opinion de Seraskier et de l'Empereur, avait décidé de l'expédition de l'Armée Impériale en Syrie. Le 18 nous avons appris que le Divan, soutenu par l'opinion de Seraskier et de l'Empereur, avait décidé de l'expédition de l'Armée Impériale en Syrie.

depuis, M. le Baron jura que sa vie et son Âme étoient consacrées à sa Seigneure. Ann. de rendre notre attitude dans toute l'affaire parfaitement claire aux yeux de sa Seigneure, je la résumai dans les points suivans :

1° Nous ne désirons et ne cherchons dans les questions relatives au labau, que ce que nous cherchons dans toutes celles qui regardent l'Empire Ottoman, nous n'y cherchons que les moyens d'assurer le repos intérieur de cet empire et sa conservation.

2°. Nous nous sommes suffisamment exprimés déjà sur ce que nous considérons comme utile ou comme compromettant pour la paix du Liban, et il ne nous reste dès-lors plus rien à apprendre à ce sujet à personne.

3°. Aujourd'hui la seule question dont on devrait s'occuper, serait de savoir si les mesures arrêtées pour le Gouvernement du Liban en 1842 sont exécutables ou si elles ne le sont pas? Il se peut qu'à cet égard notre opinion diffère de celle des autres Cabinets, sans que cela ne change rien à la manière de poser la question, qui en est une de fait et non de raisonnement. Or, le jugement à porter sur un fait doit avant tout être formé dans la proximité du lieu où le fait s'accomplit. C'est Heyrun qui est ce lieu.

4°. Si l'ordre de choses arrêté en 1842 est exécutable, que l'on s'y tienne; s'il est privé d'une application pratique, il faut aviser à le remplacer par un ordre de choses meilleur. Si cette nécessité était reconnue, alors nous nous prononçons pour le retour d'un système qui a les habitudes en sa faveur.

5°. L'expédition qui a lieu dans ce moment, quel rôle joue-t-elle dans la question? Sous quelque face que nous puissions l'envisager, elle change la nature de la question. Est-ce par la force des armes que les Cours ont jamais entendu établir la paix dans la Montagne? Certes non; et ne fût-ce (abstraction faite de toute autre considération) que par suite du fait que la force régulière qui serait nécessaire pour atteindre l'objet n'existe pas, et que celle qui serait le résultat d'une combinaison des forces Ottomanes avec une fraction de la population de la Montagne, conduisant, soit à l'extermination de l'autre faction, soit au soulèvement des deux factions contre la faiblesse des Turcs. Or, ni l'une ni l'autre de ces chances ne peut satisfaire aucune Puissance de l'Europe, et par conséquent ce qui se passe aujourd'hui sur les lieux est plein de dangers et de chances de graves compromissions.

6°. Sir Stratford Canning est dans l'erreur s'il croit à l'existence d'une entente entre l'Autriche et la France. Les deux Cours se rencontrent dans une même manière de juger de la position. Il se trompe également quand il admet que l'Autriche n'a que faire dans le règlement de la question. Notre Puissance est la plus immédiatement intéressée à ce qui assure ou peut compromettre la paix dans le Levant. Cela étant, la place de l'Autriche n'est point en dehors de ces questions; et si tout ne nous trompe, notre participation n'est point réclamée uniquement par notre propre intérêt, elle l'est également dans celui de toutes les Puissances et de la paix de l'Europe.

Veillez, Monsieur le Baron, interpréter dans le sens des explications renfermées dans ces points, le dernier alinéa de ma dépêche du 18 Juin à l'Inter-

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) METTERNICH

Inclusure 4 in No 25

Prince Metternich to Count de Sturner.

M le Comte,

Vienne, le 11 Juin, 1844

J'AI pris connaissance avec un vif intérêt de ce que vos rapports du 22 Mai renferment sur les affaires du Liban. Votre conduite a été parfaitement sage, et je n'ai que peu de choses à vous dire pour vous rendre toute ma pensée.

Deux éléments distincts jouent toujours un rôle dans toutes les questions qui ont trait au gouvernement intérieur de l'Empire Ottoman: d'abord le désordre qui règne dans la conduite des affaires gouvernementales Ottomanes, par suite de l'extrême faiblesse à laquelle se trouve réduite la Porte; et en second lieu la réaction que l'ingérence étrangère exerce sur toutes les positions dans le Levant. Le premier de ces maux est la suite naturelle des fautes commises par les derniers Sultans, fautes qui ont eu pour résultat de briser la force religieuse de l'Islamisme, avec laquelle se confondait la force gouvernementale, sans pouvoir remplacer cette force par rien qui serait de nature à réussir dans les contrées du Levant; l'ingérence continuelle des Puissances Chrétiennes dans les affaires gouvernementales de l'Empire Ottoman, venant se joindre à l'élément de faiblesse intérieure que je viens de signaler, complète les maux dont souffre cet empire. Si les Puissances de l'Europe exerçaient cette ingérence dans une même direc-

action à un calcul; il n'en est pas ainsi de celle qui a lieu, et il serait impossible qu'il en fût autrement, car les impulsions en question poussent dans des directions qui non seulement ne sont point uniformes, mais qui diffèrent fondamentalement dans leurs objets. Quand il s'agit de l'impulsion religieuse, la question n'est point définie dans son point de départ; veut-on Christianiser l'Islamisme? L'entreprise serait impossible. Veut-on favoriser le Christianisme et le protéger dans ses adhérents? Rien n'est assurément ni plus moral, ni plus civilisateur dans la conception; de quelle confession Chrétienne cependant est-il question? Veut-on les protéger toutes? Nous ne desirerions pas mieux; mais alors il faudrait assier l'entreprise sur la pacification des confessions entre elles, et cela dans leurs adhérents mêmes. L'entreprise est-elle possible?

S'agit-il de l'indépendance politique de la Porte? Mais alors il faut en tenir compte le jeu des rivalités entre les Puissances Chrétiennes, et c'est ce que nous en notre particulier préchons depuis des années.

Après ce court préambule je reviens aux affaires du Liban. A ce sujet je puis avec une pleine confiance vous renvoyer à la totalité des instructions que nous avons adressées à l'Intendance bien avant et surtout depuis l'année 1840. Sur quelles idées fondamentales ces directions étaient-elles basées? Nous avons appliqué au Liban les principes qui servent de guide à tout jugement que nous portons sur les questions Ottomanes. Le Liban est une contrée soumise à la souveraineté du Sultan. Il est habité par diverses peuplades, et nombre desquelles les Maronites et les Druses tiennent le premier rang, tout comme les Maronites l'emportent sur les Druses par leur nombre, leur religion et leur civilisation. Les peuplades qui composent la population du Liban ont été placées sous des capitulations séculaires qui renferment les règles de leur soumission à la Porte; elles étaient gouvernées par un chef qui portait le nom d'Emir Béchar; la famille Maronte Shehab était depuis plus de 150 ans en possession de cette dignité. Nous avons désiré qu'elle lui fût maintenue. La Porte et quelques Cours de l'Europe furent d'un avis contraire, il a dès lors fallu avoir recours à un autre moyen, et nous avons pris l'initiative de sa proposition, tout en déclarant que l'efficacité de ce moyen ne nous paraissait pas démontrée. Aujourd'hui on veut revenir à la famille Shehab, pourrions-nous mettre en doute notre assentiment à ce sujet? Non, assurément; nous sommes pour sa réinstallation; et il en est ainsi, non que nous ayons la conviction qu'à l'aide de la mesure le Liban serait à jamais pacifié, mais parce qu'entre toutes les mesures possibles celle en question est celle qui renferme le plus de gages de bien-être pour la Montagne.

Veillez, M. le Comte, prendre ce que vous venez de lire pour règle de votre conduite et de vos explications tant envers la Porte qu'envers MM. vos collègues. Mes paroles sont empreintes de l'esprit qui préside à tout ce que nous faisons à l'égard de l'Empire Ottoman. Nous voulons sa conservation, nous désirons dès lors vouloir les moyens qui seuls peuvent servir le but. La Porte est réduite à une grande faiblesse morale; il n'en est pas de même de ses moyens de résistance physique; la pesanteur est l'un de ses moyens, et il augmente dans la même proportion dans laquelle se divisent les efforts de ceux qui visent à soulever un poids. Voilà de la politique fort crûment énoncée; corrigez dans sa conception, je ne me fais pas scrupule de la rendre claire dans la manière de la présenter.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) METTERNICH.

Inclusure 5 in No 25

Prince Metternich to Count de Sturner.

M le Comte,

Vienne, le 18 Juin, 1844.

AUJOURD'HUI je me trouve dans le cas de vous accuser la réception de vos rapports du 5 Juin, et de revenir sur le contenu de la dépêche que je vous ai adressée le 11. Nos deux expéditions s'étant croisées en route il en résulte que ma direction du 11 de ce mois ne répond pas à la position.

tion dans laquelle d'après votre rapport du 5, se trouve placée l'affaire du Liban. C'est ce qui doit se reproduire souvent quand on a la rude tâche de labourer un sol mouvant.

Si la mobilité de toutes choses dans l'Empire Ottoman dérange à chaque instant la base des calculs, il n'en est que plus nécessaire que ceux qui vouent un actif intérêt aux destinées de cet empire prennent pour unique guide ce que leur conscience leur indique comme étant vrai et utile, ou faux et dangereux. Aussi est-ce la règle que nous suivons et que nous appliquerons sans déviation aux affaires de la Syrie, avec cette constance qui caractérise notre marche.

Il serait inutile, M. le Comte, que je me donnasse la peine de vous retracer l'histoire de la question. Nos archives renferment à cet égard un ~~rapport~~ qu'en toute occurrence vous ferez bien de consulter; et ma dépêche du 11 Juin vous aura prouvé que nous, de notre côté, ne sommes pas disposés à considérer comme non-avenus les antécédents de l'affaire du Liban.

À la suite de l'expulsion des Égyptiens de la Syrie, nous nous sommes prononcés pour la rentrée de la famille Shehab dans ses droits historiques. Ce qui nous a engagé à nous exprimer dans cette direction, ce n'est pas seulement le sentiment du respect que nous portons en règle commune aux droits acquis, mais bien particulièrement la conviction que cette mesure de justice en serait à la fois une de sagesse et d'utilité pour la Porte. Celle-ci et quelques Cours n'ont point voulu de la mesure; voyant cette répugnance, nous avons dès-lors avisé à un terme moyen entre le retour de l'ancien état des choses et l'introduction du régime des Pachaliks, car ce dernier mode d'administration n'aurait pu même refusé à en faire simplement l'essai. Le terme moyen a été mis à l'épreuve, on a déclaré tout à l'heure qu'il était privé de pratique; alors nous sommes revenus à l'idée qui de prime abord nous avait semblé être la plus utile. Aujourd'hui la Porte et quelques Cours persistent dans le maintien des arrangements légalement existants. Que l'on s'y tienne, si la chose est possible. Ce dont nous doutons c'est qu'elle soit telle.

Entrer plus en détail ne me semble point raisonnable. La Porte croit bien faire; nous croyons le contraire. Elle a envoyé Hali Pacha prêter main forte à Assand Pacha. En quoi devra consister l'appui du Capoudan Pacha? Ce n'est pas du bord d'un vaisseau qu'il fera accepter aux Maronites et aux Druses ce à quoi se refusent les deux peuplades. La Porte enverra-t-elle des troupes dans la Montagne? Elles seront battues si elles ne sont point appuyées soit par l'une, soit par l'autre de ces peuplades. Si les Turcs devaient chercher des auxiliaires dans la Montagne ils ne les trouveront que près des Druses. Alors il arrivera de deux choses l'une: ou les Maronites seront exterminés, ou ils battront leurs ennemis. Dans le premier, l'Europe Chrétienne se soulèvera, dans l'autre cas, qui rétablira la paix entre les Maronites et les Turcs? Je sais qu'une troisième chance peut se réaliser, celle qu'à la suite de bien du sang répandu et de dévastation les deux peuplades se réunissent pour se débarrasser des Turcs. Est-ce là ce que les Puissances pourraient tenir en vue? Je réponds du contraire, mais alors que veulent-elles? Comme il ne dépend pas de nous de leur faire adopter cette manière de voir, tout ce que nous pouvons faire c'est de ne point engager notre conscience dans une voie qui augmenterait les chances du mal existant. Afin d'éviter qu'il n'en soit ainsi, il n'y a qu'une voie ouverte pour nous, et c'est celle que vous et le Consul-Général de l'Empereur à Beyrouth avez à suivre: je vais vous l'indiquer.

Aussi souvent qu'il sera question des affaires du Liban, placez-vous sur le terrain des faits; que ceux-ci soient pleinement éclaircis. Il résultera de leur examen, que l'ordre des choses légalement existant est exécutable, ou qu'il ne l'est pas. S'il est le premier, que l'on s'y tienne, s'il n'est point exécutable, que l'on n'invente pas quelque combinaison nouvelle, uniquement afin d'écarter le moyen qui de tout temps a porté à nos yeux le caractère de la seule mesure véritablement pratique.

Recevez, &c.,
(Signé) METTERNICH

Inclosure 6 in No. 25

The Earl of Aberdeen to Lord Cowley

(No. 187.)

My Lord,

Foreign Office, July 5, 1844.

WITH reference to your Excellency's despatch No. 321, of the 28th ultimo, reporting a conversation which you had held with M. Guizot relative to the Lebanon, I transmit to you herewith a copy of a despatch with inclosures, on the same subject which Prince Metternich has addressed to Baron Neumann, with orders to place it in my hands.

From the tenour of these papers, as compared with the observations made to your Excellency by M. Guizot, it appears that the views of the French and Austrian Governments on the subject of the Lebanon, although they may not have been adopted in concert, are nevertheless in unison, and that both Governments seem anxious to effecting a change in the present system of Government in that district, and to the re-establishment of the governing power in the Shehab family.

The present system of joint rule by a Maronite and a Druse Kaimacam, under a Turkish supreme Governor, was adopted scarcely two years since, after long deliberation, by the unanimous voice of the Five Great Powers in concert with the Porte. That system was not considered perfect by the Five Powers, far from it; its imperfections were perceived and acknowledged; but the difficulties which surrounded the question, and amongst them the positive rejection of a Shehab ruler by the Porte, were so serious, not to say so apparently hopeless, that after long discussion both between the Powers themselves and with the Porte, that scheme of mixed rule under the supremacy of the Turkish Government appeared to be the only feasible compromise by which the ~~embarrassments~~ with which the question was on all sides beset could be surmounted.

The two Kaimacams were accordingly, after much delay and obstruction, installed in their respective offices; and the disturbances and confusion which are always apt to attend upon any new scheme of Government in a semi-civilized country, followed close upon that instalment. This, however, was but what we expected. Her Majesty's Government at least never dreamt that order and tranquillity were immediately to result from such a change of Government in the Lebanon. Difficulties and contentions still arose between Maronites and Druses, and between those parties respectively and the Turkish authorities and Government. It could scarcely fall out otherwise. But by dint of ~~constant exertions~~ on the part of some of the foreign Consuls and especially the English Consul at Beyrouth, all so-and-so at ~~the time~~ ^{the time} the Turkish Governor, the elements and evidences of discord had materially abated, and might, in our opinion, not improbably by this time have been nearly extinguished but for the pernicious intrigues and interested exertions of a party among the Maronites who, for factious purposes, sought and still seek to overthrow the existing order of things, and to substitute in its place the old scheme of Government under a member of the Shehab family, which scheme had been, latterly at least, a notorious failure.

The inclosed letters which have been just received from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, throw much light upon the proceedings of the party to which I allude, one of the principal leaders of which, as it now clearly appears, is Nicholas Murad, Archbishop of Laodicea, who has been for some time past residing at Paris.

Your Excellency will see from these papers that this man is not, as he has falsely asserted, the authorised agent of the Maronites. His pretended mission is distinctly denied both by the Patriarch of the Maronites and by Bishop Tubia, the most respectable and influential man amongst them. From the positive declarations made by these two eminent men to Colonel Rose, it is perfectly evident that Archbishop Murad has been deliberately ~~employed~~ ^{employed} in the fraudulent assumption, for improper purposes, of a character which he has no title; and that his proceedings are viewed by both those high authorities with distrust and displeasure, and are in fact disclaimed by them.

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government think it expedient that your Excellency should address a note to M. Guizot, couched in the terms of this despatch, in which the whole case should be freely laid open to his Excellency by placing in his hands such parts of Colonel Rose's despatches and their inclosures as may properly be communicated to the French Government. This may be done in a very extensive shape, omitting such expressions or allusions only as might wound the feelings of the French Government, by reflecting on their supposed policy or on the proceedings of their agents in Syria.

And at the same time state that Her Majesty's Government are not in a fair and sufficient trial of the present system of Government in Lebanon should hereafter prove that scheme to be unworkable, will be bound perfectly willing to enter into concert with the other Powers interested for attempting its correction or even the substitution of some other scheme in its place.

We entirely assent to the principle laid down by Prince Metternich, that if the present system proves impracticable it ought to be changed. It was the Five Powers in concert with the Porte a system that system for the same Five Powers in concert with the Porte to determine its practicability.

Your Excellency will especially point out to M. Guizot the extreme inexpediency and the very dangerous consequences of overturning a system of Government which has been agreed to by the Five Powers and the Porte in concert, which has as yet succeeded in a trial, and to which the Turkish Government, and both Maronites and Druses, with the exception of a faction, seem not indisposed, if not freely, at least with a fair show of good will, to submit.

This fact seems to be pretty well substantiated by Colonel Rose's reports but more directly and positively, as far as the Porte is concerned, by the despatch from Sir Stratford Canning dated the 3rd of June of which I have the honour to enclose a copy.

M. Guizot will naturally see that Great Britain can have no individual interest or object in pressing this point; and he will I doubt not give us full credit for having no desire in so doing, but to secure as far as possible the tranquillity and orderly Government of Lebanon, and the present supremacy of the Porte, at the same time that we avoid stultifying ourselves and risking the loss of our just and salutary influence with the Porte by an appearance of vacillation and a display of purpose which in any Government are always discreditable and often dangerous. In the opinion of Her Majesty's Government the Five Great Powers of Europe, in concert, and in which they act together, to give to the world an example in deep and calm deliberation in the adoption of their combined measures, and of steadiness and temperate resolution in carrying them out, by such conduct on their part may be entitled to command the respect and admiration of the Porte.

You will state to M. Guizot that I propose to address a threat loss of time to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna, and to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople, and to direct him to govern himself accordingly.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Inclosure 7 in No. 25

The Earl of Aberdeen to Colonel Rose.

(No. 7)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 8, 1844.

I HAVE received your despatches from No. 21 to No. 25 of the 10th of June.

The observations which are contained in some of these despatches on the allegations made by M. Nicholas Mard the Arch-bishop of Latakia are parti-

cularly valuable at the present moment when the Courts of Austria and France have evinced a disposition to advocate a revision of the arrangement made at Constantinople in December 1842, in order to substitute for it the single rule of a member of the Shehab family.

You will learn from my despatch to Lord Cowley, of which a copy is inclosed, that Her Majesty's Government are not at present prepared to concur in the overthrow of a system which they do not consider to have had a fair trial, and that consequently it will be your duty to continue to the utmost of your ability to promote the success of that form of Government which the Five Powers and the Porte agreed to establish in the Lebanon.

I observe in your despatch No. 22, that you appear to lay stress upon the circumstance that the Maronite petition inclosed in my despatch No. 4, was without seal or signature. But I should state to you that a translation only of the petition was sent to you. The original, which is now sent to you, is, as you will perceive, numerously sealed.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 26

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 21.)

No. 119)

My Lord,

Beyrout, June 13, 1844

SINCE I had last the honour of writing to your Lordship on the subject of Syrian affairs, two important incidents relating to them have occurred. The Porte has announced its determination to adhere to the arrangement already adopted for the Government of Mount Lebanon, and a considerable part of the Turkish squadron commanded by the Captain Pasha himself, has left the Dardanelles on its way to Beyrout.

On receiving information of these circumstances, and finding that I had no prospect of diverting the Turkish Government from a resolution which was already in the course of being carried into effect, I thought it better to employ what influence I possessed in recommending such measures and obtaining such assurances as might contribute to the settlement of affairs in Mount Lebanon, and prevent the necessity of a new and complicated intervention on the part of the Five Powers.

Your Lordship is already apprized of my opinion respecting the very imperfect and inconsistent manner in which the plan of settlement adopted by the Five Powers in concurrence with the Sultan's Government, has been carried into execution, or rather prepared for failure. I am now in possession of a despatch from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria, by which I learn how largely the intrigues of a few interested parties have contributed to produce the present state of things, and how much exaggeration and falsehood have prevailed in the statement presented to your Lordship by Archbishop Morad. Of this despatch and of its several inclosures, I make it a point to transmit copies herewith, at the risk of repeating the communications addressed directly to the Foreign Office by Colonel Rose. I saw in their contents additional motives for persevering in the line which a strong sense of duty had previously prescribed to me, but nothing to warrant a hope that my counsels, or any moral assistance which I could offer to the Porte, would meet with the slightest encouragement from my French and Austrian colleagues.

I therefore endeavoured, but I endeavoured singly and confidentially, to give a beneficial direction to the main intention of the Porte, as already avowed, to remove any remaining danger of a resort to force not justified by acts of open or armed insubordination, to place some kind of check on the intemperate disposition of the Captain Pasha, and to procure such additional guards and compensations as the policy of the Porte would admit in favour of the different classes in Mount Lebanon.

For the result of my efforts, imperfect as it was sure to be, though not altogether valueless, I beg leave to refer to the accompanying copy of a despatch which I have addressed to Colonel Rose.

Q

Can then the French Government any longer take by the hand a man or a party who have been guilty of acts which are an outrage on the first principles of religion, honour, and humanity; who would see this country in disorder—yes, in intestine war and all the horrors consequent on it, provided one favourable object could be fulfilled; who are ready to purchase political power by the sacrifice of the lives and liberties of their countrymen?

The presence of Archbishop Murad in Paris is productive of incalculable harm in this country. It causes the most reasonable doubts as to the good faith of the French Government, and the belief, only too much confirmed by the conduct of the French agents, is universal that France is not united in opinion with her Allies; that she wishes to upset the present form of Government, although she contributed to bring into existence, and substitute, that of a Dictator.

As regards the second point, the truth of the facts adduced by the Archbishop in support of his views and proceedings, I have the honour to say that some are totally without foundation, some much exaggerated, and the rest the general consequences of Turkish and Arab misrule. But the chief and main cause of political agitation and want of order are the aim of the Turkish, and the

This statement is totally without foundation. I myself have traversed the Lebanon by night and by day without an attendant or arms, not even a stick, and I have never met with anything but civility.

Anarchy cannot be said to exist when Mr Moore informs me that both Kaimacams have shown their power by either obtaining payment of debts for British subjects, or arresting the debtor; when criminals, if they are not arrested, are forced to fly; when travellers, priests and merchants, pursue their journeys and lawful calling in security.

As regards what the "Note de faits" says respecting the four persons killed, and who belonged to the families of Gabush, Hakeush, and Bah-dah, De-dah) it is a mis-statement, which the Archbishop must have known to be such.

The paragraph respecting the trial is a partial mis-statement

With respect to the murders, I had the honour in my despatch No. 47. to report ~~them~~ to your Excellency

The Archbishop's attack upon the Government of the Kingdom is well met by the ~~Government~~ of the ~~Primate~~ clergy and nobles of Romania, as our statesman has ~~been~~ ~~in~~ ~~the~~ ~~letter~~

Fear of being too prolix prevents me from considering any further the mis-statements of Bishop Murad.

Such guarantees of peace, entailed upon the world, must not be lost sight of. Just for the sake of good faith and humanity are not lost sight of.

Asaad Pacha has confirmed to me the statement that letters have been written to inhabitants of the Jebbet Besharré by Archbishop Murud, inciting them to disaffection and insurrection.

the Archbishop of Latakia.

I have, &c.
 (S. 100) HUGH ROSE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 26.

The Patriarch of the Maronite Nation to Colonel Rose.

After the usual compliments
(Translation.)

May 30, 1844.

IN the best of times we have received your Seignury's letter dated 27th instant, and we understood it and we praised the Almighty for your contentment and wished-for health, and in which your Seignury stated that a high letter has been received by you from his Excellency Lord Aberdeen, the illustrious Minister of the Foreign Affairs in London, inclosing copies of a correspondence which took place between his Excellency and his reverence our brother Archbishop Nicholas Murad, the venerable, and that in one of the Archbishop's letters addressed to his Excellency Lord Aberdeen there is a petition without seals or signatures, alleging to be presented on the part of the chiefs and principals of the Maronite nation in Mount Lebanon to Her Majesty's Government, and that the said Archbishop states in his letter that he is an agent on the part of the Maronite people; and he, as well as the contents of the said petition, also entreats warmly from his Excellency Lord Aberdeen for the return to power of the family of the Shehab Emirs; and he puts forward a strong accusation against the Turkish authorities and against the Government of Emir Haider, for corruption, oppression, and tyranny, as occurring in the country, and he complains also of his Excellency the Emir Haider, for having been the cause of paying 60,000 piastres as a bribe to his Excellency the Pasha, in the affair of collecting the Miri of Kesrouan, and that Lord Aberdeen, the illustrious, has now instructed your Seignury to lay before him an explanation of the statement of Archbishop Murad, and of the contents of the said petition; therefore you thought it important to be informed by us, whether we authorized the said Archbishop to present the petition in question, or to state that statement against the Government of Mount Lebanon to his Excellency Lord Aberdeen, the illustrious, or whether we consider him as an agent on our part and on the part of the Maronite people for what has been stated.

Now all this statement of your Seignury became known to us, and it truly has extremely surprised us, because we have absolutely no knowledge of the petition in question which your Seignury mentioned, nor is the said Archbishop deputed by us for that purpose, nor have we also any knowledge that he is deputed by the commonalty of the nation (Maronite) in order to be able to present that petition. As we have no knowledge of this matter, how can he be considered by us to be deputed for that on our part, or on the part of the people? And as we have previously written to his Excellency the Emir Haider, that the departure of the above-mentioned person to France is not with our permission, nor have we any knowledge of it.

You stated also that your Seignury long ago, at the time of the Miri affair had seen a petition signed by his Reverence our brother and Procurator, the Archbishop Paul, the venerable, by their Reverences our brothers the Reverend Bishops, by the Superiors of the convents, by the Clergy, and by the Chiefs and principals of the people, in which they stated that the Emir Haider, the illustrious, and his Government in all praise. As to that petition, it is true to have been presented, as your Seignury stated, and we have seen it, and all what is stated in it as to the Government of his Excellency the above-mentioned Emir is true; and as to the statement of your Seignury, that the Archbishop Nicholas has complained of his Excellency the Emir Haider, the illustrious, for having been the cause of paying 60,000 piastres in bribe to his Excellency the Pasha in the affair of collecting the Miri of Kesrouan, &c., this his complaint is a pure falsehood, for neither his Excellency the Emir, the above mentioned, has bribed, nor the Turkish authority has been bribed in that matter, as it was previously represented by our brothers the Bishops, the clergy, and the principals of Kesrouan on that subject. Finally, your Seignury requested that we would keep your letter as confidential, according to the request of your Seignury it will be kept confidential, of which rest assured.

And thus is what is necessary to be set forth, whilst we hope for the con-

tinuance of your favours in the announcements of your beloved pleasure, and health for the sake of our repose
And with all that is due from our part, may the High God prolong your life.

The humble
(L.S.) (Signed) JOSEPH PETER,
The Patriarch of Antioch

Inclosure 3 in No. 26.

Bishop Tubia to Colonel Rose

March 9, 1844

(Translation.)

THE day before yesterday, the 7th instant, we received your Seignury's letter dated the 20rd of the last month, which filled us with joy, because it informed us of the pureness of your good health, for which we thanked the Almighty, and all that you were pleased to say became known to us.

You were pleased to say that your Seignury regretted our departure from Beyrouth before seeing you. This is a thing, which we do not doubt for we have no doubt of the friendship of your Seignury and your laudable qualities and your distinguished manners. We beg the Almighty to grant us a return of our meeting with you, and to see your Seignury in all happiness, for we have no merit in our friendship to your Seignury, because it is based on the remembrance of your beloved qualities and especially your kindness towards your humble servant.

We have acquainted his Eminence with the contents of despatches which you received from his Excellency the Ambassador of your great Government at the Seraglio, and the Ambassador's letter, partly damaged at Dionne and the adoption of the means for its settlement, and we have also informed him as to inform us of his Eminence presents to your Seignury his due and deserving reverence and consideration, and salutes your noble feeling. He and we have put due and beneficial prayers before His Majesty the Creator of the creation for the preservation of the Government of your great Government and for strengthening the sceptre of her power for ever; and to protect the existence of his Excellency the magnificent Ambassador, and not deprive us of your precious presence and zeal, which is always the refuge and succourer of the poor and distressed.

You have asked us confidentially as to the motive of the departure of his Reverence the Archbishop Nicholas Murad, the most honoured, to Paris on his way to London, and whether it is for any object but for travelling, as otherwise his trouble would be fruitless?

We can assure your Seignury that we neither know the motive of his journey in question, nor did we hear of his departure, of which we had no knowledge, till we heard lately from individuals at Beyrouth of his arrival at Marseilles and no more than that. You have already ascertained our sentiments, that we would not tell you what is not true, and you have had actual experience of this, and you will be the more convinced of the same by future experience.

This is what we have to state to your Seignury, trusting to be always favoured by the announcement of your desirable welfare for the sake of our repose thereupon.

May the Almighty preserve your precious life!
(L.S.) (Signed) BISHOP TUBIA AOUN

Inclosure 4 in No. 26.

Minute of Colonel Rose's interview with Emir Haider's Kiaya: translated by M. Nasse Jebel.

May 25, 1844.

MR. EYD HATTIM, the secretary of the Emir Haider, came to me and requested that I should accompany him to Colonel

Rose's house, to act as interpreter for a confidential communication which he was charged to convey to that gentleman.

Mr. Eyd Hattim said that the Emir wished to know whether the Porte has shown any disposition to restore the property of the Bekaa to its owners, and to have the Colonel's advice with respect to the proceedings of the proprietors, who seem anxious to ascertain the feelings of the authorities on this matter as the crops are at hand, and who seem rather disposed to oppose than to suffer the Mutsellim or appaltator of the Bekaa from appropriating himself of the recoits of those lands. Colonel Rose advised the Emir to warn them to abstain from any insubordinate act, and at the same time to state their demands in a petition.

The Knyaz then added that the Emir wished to acquaint Colonel Rose with details of great public interest about the spirit of rebellion lately shown by the inhabitants of Gebbet-Dehsharri in refusing to pay the *Mari*, notwithstanding two bouyroudis issued to that effect by Assad Pasha. That the Emir's agents and adherents in that district have reported to him a few days ago, that the real object of those inhabitants was not to evade the payment of the reasonable rate of taxes claimed from them, in equal proportion to the other districts of the Mountain, but that the truth was ascertained by those agents that the Sheik Butrus Karany and another influential person, certain Abou-mat, had received letters from Arch bishop Nicolas Murad, in which he announced to these persons that the French Government have lately taken up the affair of the Shehabs, and that the means which would tend more efficaciously to further the views of that Government to restore the Shehabs to the command of the Mountain, were the increase of disorder and discontent in its districts. That in conformity to those instigations the people were incited to insubordination, and that Sheik Francis had come with a number of men from the Baalbec district to aid the

That Emir Hudar was most anxious to retain his position, but that he was not authentically or honestly supported by his superior Assad Pasha, and that under the present circumstances the Emir's position was a very difficult one.

That there were many instances which show clearly that the Shehab party are again renewing their intrigues in behalf of that family with the support of French agents, that a certain Tannous-az-zoghry, an ex-secretary of the Emir Kassis Shehab, went lately to France with M. Bourée, and that at the suggestion of the latter the partisans of the Shehabs are now getting ready a fresh petition, which has already been signed by some Christians and Druses, in their behalf, and that petition is to be sent to Bishop Murad who has already informed his agents in all the Lebanon to confirm its contents by the incitement of the people to insubordination and disorder in the country.

That Emir Hudar is quite willing to unite and reconcile himself with the Druse chiefs who are disposed to the maintenance of the present form of Government in the Mountain, but that it is due to his position and policy, particularly when the wages of the mountaineers are considered, that those Sheiks should make some advances first, which the Emir is ready and pledges himself to return four-fold towards them.

That, in conclusion, if the Emir were to be honestly supported by the Turkish authorities, he would by the aid of his own party and the advice of Colonel Rose effectually defeat the schemes of his antagonists, but if not he would be compelled to desert, and in that case he will beg Colonel Rose to procure for him his abdication, and petition for a Turkish Governor for the Mountain, and at the same time throw himself under Colonel Rose's protection, as the British Government were the means of his appointment to the Ka machanship of the Mountain.

That, finally, the Emir relies solely and exclusively upon the support of Colonel Rose, and that for the future he will make it a rule to ask Colonel Rose's advice in any matter of public interest, and not to conceal from him anything.

Inclosure 5 in No 26

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose

Sir,

Constantinople, June 12, 1844.

NOTWITHSTANDING the critical posture of affairs in Syria, and my earnest desire to reply without loss of time to your late important despatches respecting them, circumstances have occurred to tie up my hands and to make it impossible for me to write to you sooner with any prospect of advantage to the public interests. Even at this moment my communications must be in many respects imperfect, though I think we have reached a point at which it is desirable for you to be made acquainted with the intentions of the Porte in so far as they are known, and also with the views of my colleagues as shown in their language to me concerning the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

From your despatches I have collected in general that although great obstacles have been experienced in carrying out the system of measures adopted by the Porte at the recommendation or with the acquiescence of the Five Powers, those obstacles were such as it was reasonable to anticipate from the first, and that if they had become insurmountable without a reference to Constantinople, it was less on account of their inherent difficulty, than owing to the vacillation of Assad Pasha, to a want of union among the Consuls, and especially to the intrigues of those who are devoted to the Shehab family and other party interests. These more salient features of the transaction in which you have been so long and earnestly engaged, have come out into stronger relief as your correspondence advanced; and your last despatch, received but three days ago, in exposing the misstatements and misconduct of Archbishop Murad, goes far to establish the correctness of your preceding impressions.

It was prior to the receipt of your later communications that it was long to no purpose for the despatches expected at the Porte from Assad Pasha, to be sent to you, and that it was no doubt on my mind that the French and Austrian Representatives were prepared to follow a course of their own in the affairs of Mount Lebanon. Whatever may be the cause or motive of this separation from their colleagues, the reinstatement of the Shehab family, as the most feasible mode of placing the whole Mountain once more under a Catholic chief, is evidently the object which appears most naturally to account for their conduct.

My own conviction that proper means had not been employed to carry into effect the plan adopted in 1842, and that the abandonment of that plan by so many great Powers without a clear necessity was ill calculated either to sustain their credit or to promote the success of any other arrangement, could avail but little to shake a resolution formed to all appearance beforehand, and though not resting perhaps on definite instructions, agreeable no doubt to the sentiments prevailing at Paris and Vienna.

Even the concurrence of the Russian and Prussian Representatives did not enable me to insist with success upon the propriety of our supporting the Turkish authorities in a fresh attempt to accomplish what had hitherto been deemed our common object, by a strenuous and unanimous employment of all the legitimate means at our disposal.

The unexpected course, which has since been taken by the Porte, has served to counteract what appeared to be the inevitable, as it certainly was the natural, consequence of this state of things. Instead of suspending all further interference in the question and waiting for instructions adapted to its present stage, I find myself abruptly called upon to resume a decided attitude. The Captain Pasha's fleet, which went to sea as if to attend upon the Sultan, is now proceeding to the coast of Syria, and the Porte has not only avowed its destination, but stated to me her firm resolution to adhere to the measures already adopted for the government of Mount Lebanon, and to endeavour to give them effect by the united counsels of the Captain Pasha and the Pasha of Sidon.

In the period which elapsed between my conference with the other Representatives and the departure of the Ottoman squadron, I received instructions

from the Foreign Office, communicating a further correspondence with Archbishop Murad, and directing me to report upon the correctness of that private statement. As I was informed that no decision would be taken by Her Majesty's Government before the receipt of my report, I thought it might be useful to send a gentleman of the Embassy to Beyrout, for the purpose of communicating more freely with the sources of local intelligence, and relieving you from a share of that responsibility which falls with aggravated weight upon your station at a juncture like the present. The intentions of the Porte, as now avowed, have confirmed me in the prosecution of this idea; and if other motives were wanting I should find them in the difference of opinion which appears to prevail in some important respects between our impressions and those of the French and Austrian Agents.

Mr. Alison, whom I have charged with this duty, will wait upon you as soon as he reaches Beyrout. He will show you the few lines of instruction which I have addressed to him respecting the affairs of Mount Lebanon, and I recommend him to your good offices and confidence, during the short term of his visit to Syria. Intimately acquainted with the affairs of this Embassy, and frequently employed in confidential business with the Ottoman Ministers, he is peculiarly fitted to supply the deficiencies of my correspondence, and to assist you in communicating with the Turkish commanders on the present very delicate subject.

You are already informed that Her Majesty's ship "Belvidera" will carry Mr. Alison to Beyrout. Her Majesty's ship "Snake" has been dispatched to keep company with the Captain Pasha's squadron. According to the information I receive from Rifaat Pasha, it is not improbable that the former of those vessels will be the first to reach Beyrout. Not having been called upon to exercise any influential judgment on the two main points of policy adopted by the Porte, namely the destination of the squadron and the execution of the arrangement previously accepted from the Five Powers, I had only to choose between a silent observation of the intended proceedings, or an active endeavour to keep them in a right state and to contribute to their success by any proper means at my disposal.

You are already in possession of the motives which determined me to pursue the latter course, and I am happy to say that I have succeeded in obtaining from the Porte assurances of a description so highly satisfactory that I not only reckon upon your being able to co-operate effectually with the Turkish functionaries, but do not despair of your obtaining eventually the assent and concurrence of all your colleagues.

So strong indeed is the hope which I venture to entertain on this head, that under less urgent circumstances I should prefer detaining Mr. Alison until I could invite the other Representatives to a meeting, and repeat my exertions to secure another and united effort in favour of the pending arrangement, and a corresponding instruction to the respective Consuls. But as it is desirable that you should be fully acquainted with what is passing here at a period as nearly as may be coincident with Haid Pasha's arrival at Beyrout, I determine not to detain Mr. Alison, and to reserve for a future occasion whatever I may have to add in consequence of another meeting, should it take place, with their Excellencies my colleagues.

In the mean time I can only conjecture as the most probable contingency, that you will not yet meet with much cordial assistance from any but the Russian and Prussian Consuls, though it may be difficult for those who stand aloof to take any open part in opposition to the Sultan's Representatives, acting, as I trust they will, in conformity with the assurances given to me through the first interpreter of the Embassy as well as through Mr. Alison.

It remains for me to give you a more accurate idea of the assurances to which I refer.

In the first place, the Albanians are to be sent away from Beyrout, and the station is to be occupied by other irregular troops.

In the second, another battalion of the line will be joined, as before, to the one still quartered near Deir-el-Kamar.

In the third, facilities will be afforded both as to time and as to pecuniary means for the payment of the indemnities, and it is expected that a temporary remission of the Muri will not be withheld.

In the fourth, the appointments of the Governors will be completed by the restitution of the 300 purses subtracted by Assad Pasha.

In the fifth, instructions will be given to the Pashas respecting the nomination of a Maronite Vakeel at Deir-el-Kamar, and the collection of the taxes by a Druse or Maronite Vakeel in the districts of mixed population.

I have further to state that the Porte has declared explicitly its determination to abstain from employing force except for the repression of overt acts of resistance to the Sultan's authority, and that Fik Effendi appointed by the Porte to accompany the Captain Pasha, has been invested with the character of Muateshar for the express purpose of assisting the Admiral with his advice in Syria.

The advice of the Consuls and yours I believe in particular, will be acceptable, if tendered in confidence to the Pashas, but it is quite unnecessary for me to remind you of the prudence and circumspection which were never more required than now in every part of this delicate and complicated transaction.

I am &c,
Stratford Canning

No. 27

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 21.)

(No. 120.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 13, 1844

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith for your Lordship's information, the few lines of instruction respecting the affairs of Syria which I addressed to Mr. Alison before his departure for Beyrout.

I have stated elsewhere the motives which prevailed with me to take this step under the pressing circumstances of the moment, and I hope that your Lordship will not disapprove of the responsibility which I have ventured to incur in the interest of Her Majesty's service.

Mr. Alison embarked in the "Devastation," but from the Gulf of Smyrna he will proceed to the coast of Syria in Her Majesty's ship "Belvidera." I thought it advisable to inform my colleagues of Mr. Alison's destination.

The Honourable Captain Grey, who commands the "Belvidera," had previously at my request dispatched the "Snake" to keep in sight of the Turkish squadron, and to convey a confidential letter, of which a copy is inclosed herewith, from me to Colonel Rose. The Captain Pasha being detained at Mitylene in making some repairs to his rigging, the "Snake" was sent on to Beyrout, but neither vessel will probably be detained there except at the request of Her Majesty's Consul.

I have, &c,
(Signed) Stratford Canning

Inclosure 1 in No. 27

Sir Stratford Canning to Mr. Alison

Sir,

Constantinople, June 12, 1844

CONCEIVING that in the altered state of affairs in Mount Lebanon it is desirable for me to obtain a clearer notion of what is passing in that district and of the sentiments entertained by the leading men and several parties here with respect to the new form of administration, I thought of sending a confidential person to communicate directly with Her Majesty's Consul-General at Beyrout and other sources of local intelligence, when the departure of the Ottoman squadron for Syria and the avowal of a certain line of policy as adopted by the Porte supplied me with additional motives for persevering in that intention.

In looking for an individual qualified to perform this service my choice naturally fell upon you, whose knowledge of the languages of the country and habitual intercourse with the Turkish Ministers are so many titles to preference.

on such an occasion. It is therefore with full confidence in your ability, zeal and discretion, that I now select you for the service respecting which I have already communicated with you in the most ample and unreserved manner.

The objects to which I now particularly direct your attention, are, first, the allegations contained in a statement transmitted to the Earl of Aberdeen from Paris by Archbishop Murad, and secondly, the proceedings which are intended to follow the arrival of the Captain Pasha at Beyrout.

With respect to the former I am desirous of knowing to what degree reliance may be placed on their correctness.

With respect to the latter I have to express a hope, and indeed a well-founded expectation, that your acquaintance with the whole range of my late communications with the Porte will enable you to operate with good effect, though confidentially, and in concert with Colonel Rose, upon the united councils of Haidi Pasha and the Pasha of Sidon.

Inclosed herewith is a copy of the paper presented by Archbishop Murad, and on reaching Beyrout you will apply to Colonel Rose for permission to read the despatch in which he has recorded his animadversions upon the contents of that paper. You have already perused the despatch which I have this day addressed to that officer, and you have generally had access to the correspondence concerning the affairs of Mount Lebanon.

With whomsoever it may be your duty to communicate in Syria, whether with the more distinguished of the Consular Agents, with the high functionaries of the Porte, or with the chiefs and partisans of the Mountain, you will be careful I well know to act with all becoming discretion and to conciliate the good will and confidence of those with whom you may be called upon to act.

What little I have to add on this occasion relates to the manner in which you are to proceed to Beyrout. The "Devastation" will convey you to the Gulf of Smyrna, and Her Majesty's ship "Belvidera," commanded by the Honourable Captain Grey, will then receive you on board and convey you to the place of your destination.

You will not prolong your absence from the Embassy beyond the term which you may find indispensable for the due execution of my instructions, and on your return I have no doubt that you will receive every assistance from the commanders of Her Majesty's vessels, which other demands upon their services may leave them at liberty to give.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No. 27

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

(Most Confidential.)

Dear Sir,

Constantinople, June 7, 1844

IN answer to my inquiries I learn from the Captain Pasha that the Turkish squadron which is already below the Dardeneles, will proceed at once to the coast of Syria. The Captain Pasha, who left Constantinople with the Sultan and was expected to return with His Majesty, takes command of the squadron, and is no doubt instructed to act in concert with Assad Pasha for the more complete settlement of the new administration in Mount Lebanon.

I believe that the Porte intends to adhere with firmness to the arrangement adopted by her in concert with the Five Powers.

My proposal to endeavour, by the employment of an united and energetic moral force, to overcome, if it be practicable, the existing difficulties, did not receive the support of the French Ambassador and the Austrian Internuncio, who have agreed to consider the plan of the Five Governments as an experiment which has failed, and upon that representation to resort to their respective Courts for fresh instructions pointing to a new arrangement.

My own conviction is that the experiment has not been fairly or completely tried, and that any new expedient or a return to the original scheme of administration will be also attended with much difficulty and no small hazard of fresh disorders.

Under these circumstances I intend, after communicating more fully with the Turkish Ministers, to request the Honourable Captain Grey of Her Majesty's ship "Belvidera" now at anchor off the Dardeneles, to proceed to Beyrout with my despatches for you, and in the meantime to direct Her Majesty's sloop "Snake" to follow the Captain Pasha's squadron and to convey this confidential notice to your hands.

It is probable that Mr. Alison, the Senior Attaché of this Embassy, will embark in the "Belvidera."

For the moment I have only to add that Rifaat Pasha's voluntary and decided assurances warrant the belief that the Porte has no intention of using force for the execution of its measures in the Mountain.

My only object in writing to you now is to afford you the earliest information of the circumstances which I have mentioned, for your own particular use and preparatory guidance.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 24

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 21.,

(No. 122.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 17, 1844.

HAVING not only ascertained the intentions of the Porte with respect to Syria, but having also obtained the assurances which I have mentioned elsewhere, I was unwilling to abandon the hope of prevailing upon my colleagues to reconsider the question of Mount Lebanon, and so far to support the intended proceedings of the Turkish Government as to unite in suggesting to the respective Consuls at Beyrout the expediency of communicating with the two Pashas, and preparing themselves to lend unanimously their moral aid in execution of the present modified measures. But the conversations which I have had separately with Count Stürmer and M. de Bourqueney, entirely confirm my apprehension that they would not feel themselves at liberty to make the slightest movement in aid of the arrangement hitherto considered as the object of joint recommendation and support, and that another meeting of the Five Representatives would have no effect at present beyond that of opposing contradictory reports to each other, and eliciting a repetition of arguments already exhausted.

The French Ambassador conceives his position to be strengthened by the speech respecting Syria delivered on the 28th ultimo in the Chamber of Deputies by M. Guizot.

The Austrian Internuncio derives from the silence maintained by Prince Metternich on three successive post-days, an argument as powerful as that suggested to his colleague by the eloquence of the French Secretary of State.

It is evident that the Porte, in its attempt to carry out its present appearance proceeding to make, without throwing upon the Five Powers an unavailing necessity of reconsidering the whole question of Mount Lebanon, and providing their Representatives here with fresh and if possible uniform instructions.

Among the apprehensions existed both here and in Syria by the vacillating conduct of Assad Pasha, was that of the Porte's aiming at the reinstatement of a direct Mussulman authority in the Mountain; and I am convinced by expressions which have fallen from Rifaat Pasha, that an idea of the kind is entertained as the expedient to which the Porte would ultimately resort upon the clear and irrecoverable failure of the existing arrangement.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 132)

Constantinople, June 26, 1844.

It is evident under these circumstances, that no advantage could possibly be derived from any fresh meeting of the Representatives here in the present state of our relations, and it is hoped that no such incidents may take place in Syria before any more complete understanding can be effected among the Five Cabinets.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

(No. 134.)

Constantinople, July 2, 1844

found it my duty to pursue, and by a brief statement of facts to disprove the inaccuracy which Count Stürmer was rather inclined to impute to me. On learning the destination of the Captain Pasha's squadron, his Excellency had privately thrown out a suggestion that it might be expedient for the Five Representatives to hold another meeting. I gave him to understand in my reply, that after the total want of union which had appeared at the preceding conference, it would be desirable to have some mutual intimation of what we were to expect from each other, before we committed ourselves to a repetition of the former unfruitful discussion. Hearing no more from the Intermunio, I thought myself justified in concluding, as indeed I had supposed at first, that the only object of his suggestion had been to bring about some joint expression of our opinions, calculated to restrain and embarrass the proceedings of the Ottoman authorities in Syria. At the same time I saw no reason to decline entering into single communication with Rifaat Pasha as to the Porte's intentions, and the less so when I found the Porte was resolved to adhere to the existing arrangement, and did not object to adopt such modification and to afford such facilities as might tend to recommend it to the acceptance of the people for whose government it had been devised. Having succeeded in obtaining the degree of improvement described in my despatch of the 12th ultimo to Colonel Rose, my next thought was to communicate the result to my colleagues, and to solicit their joint recommendation of it to the respective Consuls at Beyrout. But before I ventured upon this step I conceived that it would be prudent to ascertain definitively from Count Stürmer and M. de Bourqueney, whether there was any prospect of their feeling themselves at liberty to accede to my proposal, and finding that no ground whatever existed for entertaining such a

were naturally averse to another exhibition of conflicting opinions, I made no secret of the line I had taken, but quietly abstained from attempting to revive a concurrence which, however sincere at one time, had at best been productive of very little effect.

Previously to my visit, the Internuncio had been with Rifaat Pasha. The language which he held with that Minister, and also the language respectively held by the French, Russian, and Prussian Representatives to the same functionary, is described in the accompanying report addressed to me by M. Pisani. The Internuncio read to me Prince Metternich's instruction of the 19th ultimo as he had previously read to me a preceding one which approved of his conduct at our last general meeting.

He also put me in possession of a letter which he had received in answer to an inquiry on his part from the Maronite Patriarch's Agent at Constantinople. This letter relates to the public character and proceedings of Archbishop Murad, and I have the honour to inclose a copy of it herewith. Struck with the contradiction which it exhibits to the statement made by the Patriarch himself in his correspondence with Colonel Rose, already transmitted to your Lordship, I directed a gentleman of the Embassy to wait upon the Maronite Agent and to ~~ascertain the truth of the statement~~ Mr Wood's report of what passed is inclosed in copy herewith, for your Lordship's more complete information.

The French Ambassador adheres as tenaciously as the Internuncio to the course he has latterly adopted, and I am bound to state that he disclaims in the most unequivocal terms on the part of his Government, himself, and the French official Agents, any participation whatever in the intrigues alleged to have been carried on for the restoration of the Shehab family.

Looking to the whole of these circumstances I cannot do more for the present than wait for further information from Syria or further instructions from your Lordship.

I have, &c,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 30

M. Frederic Pisani to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Confidential)

(Extract.)

July 2, 1844.

RIFAAT PACHA m'a dit ce qui suit: "L'Internonce m'a dit Dimanche dernier que si l'arrangement qui a été fait était une fois effectué, alors il n'aurait rien à dire contre moi; mais que l'Internonce n'aurait pu s'opposer à l'expédition de Halil Pacha ne promet aucun solution en faveur de l'arrangement déjà fait."

"J'ai répondu," dit Rifaat Pacha, "que la Porte ne peut rien dire pour le présent; qu'il faut qu'elle attende les rapports ultérieurs d'Assaad Pacha et de Halil Pacha;" réponse que l'Internonce a trouvée raisonnable. Mais l'Internonce a encore encouragé la Porte de faire choix de l'Emir Emin; il tient beaucoup à cet Emir. Le Baron Bourqueney tient de son côté, dit Rifaat Pacha, à faire donner le gouvernement général du Mont Liban à un chef Maronite, sans exception de familles ou de personnes. Il ne propose aucun individu.

"Mais il y aurait deux candidats pour la principauté en cas qu'il serait question de remettre le Mont Liban sous l'autorité d'un seul Prince Chrétien, savoir, le vieux Emir Bechir El-Shehab et son fils Emir Emin El-Shehab. Le vieux Emir n'est recommandé par aucune Puissance; mais il offre d'augmenter le tribut de 1000 bourses et de faire taire toute prétention d'indemnité de la part des Maronites. L'Emir Emin ne fait aucune offre."

Rifaat Pacha dit que la Russie et la Prusse sont pour l'exécution de l'arrangement fait. Le Prince Metternich a dit à Mouchtar Bey, d'après ce que celui-ci a écrit dernièrement, que l'on pourrait établir un Naxir, un Surintendant (un Turc) pour agir plus immédiatement sur les Kaimacams dans le cas où il y aurait divergence d'opinion entre eux. Le Prince a dit à Mouchtar Bey que si l'impossibilité de mettre en exécution l'arrangement devient constante,

alors il donnera quelques conseils à la Porte. "Je vois," dit Rifaat, "que ses conseils consisteront à rétablir un seul Prince Chrétien au Mont Liban, et qu'en attendant il cherchera à obtenir le consentement de l'Angleterre aussi."

Inclosure 2 in No. 30.

M. Elias Hava to Count Sturmer.

(Translation.)

Excellence,

Péra, ce 26 Jan, 1844.

JE remplis un devoir respectueux en répondant à la demande que vous avez daigné me faire relativement à la volonté de Monseigneur le Patriarche Maronite touchant le retour des Shehabs, et principalement la personne de l'Emir Bechir.

Nous savons pour sûr que ce prélat nous a plus d'une fois témoigné sa pleine volonté de voir rétablie dans le Gouvernement du Liban la susdite famille des Shehabs. Lui comme toutes les personnes sages reconnaissent et sont intimement persuadés qu'on n'obtiendra jamais cette paix et cette tranquillité tant désirée si on n'effectue pas le retour des susdits Shehabs; d'où votre Excellence peut être persuadée de la pleine volonté de notre Patriarche et de toute la nation, souvent témoignés à la Sublime Porte par écrit par l'intermédiaire de Monseigneur Murad, lequel a été recommandé par Monseigneur le Patriarche d'obtenir de la Porte ce même objet.

Nous savons en outre qu'à différentes reprises l'Archevêque Murad a eu des lettres générales et particulières de la part du clergé et du peuple, qui le reconnaissent comme leur procureur et représentant pour s'employer à supplier le retour des Shehabs. Ces mêmes lettres lui ont été expédiées avant et après son départ pour Paris.

Le Patriarche lui-même, afin que son représentant eût dans sa charge une plus grande influence, a écrit au Saint Siège afin que celui-ci daignât l'élever au grade d'Archevêque, et que par là il eût toutes les prérogatives ecclésiastiques en qualité de représentant du Patriarche et de tout le peuple Chrétien du Liban, et se rendit à Paris pour solliciter auprès de toutes les Puissances le retour et le rétablissement des Shehabs au Gouvernement du Liban.

Voilà tout ce que je puis dire à votre Excellence, et j'ai l'honneur, &c.

(Signé) ELIAS HAVA

Inclosure 3 in No. 30

Mr. Wood to Sir Stratford Canning.

Sir,

Péra, July 2, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Excellency that I have seen Elias Hava, the agent of the Maronite Patriarch, and in conformity with your instructions communicated to him verbally the contents of the Patriarch's letter to Lieutenant-Colonel Rose, directing his attention particularly to the discrepancies of its statements with those of his own letter to the Internuncio.

Mr. Hava appeared much astonished at the contents of the Patriarch's letter, and repeating the statements contained in his own letter, requested if possible to see the original, pretending that he entertained doubts of its authenticity.

Upon my communicating your Excellency's message desiring an explanation of the incongruity of the statements, he said that without having either a copy of the original or at least a translation in French or Italian, he could not give an answer in writing, but that it occurred to him the following might be the true explanation.

U

When Mustapha Pasha went to the Mountain he sent for the Patriarch, and telling him that he was only the spiritual head of the Maronite nation, forbade him strictly from interfering in its politics; and Archbishop Murad, who lay under no such prohibition, being consequently chosen by the nation their agent in politics, the Patriarch has since that period, when questioned upon matters of politics, uniformly denied having any knowledge of them; and acting upon this principle on the present occasion, while he allowed that the Archbishop was generally deputed by him, he yet denied having given him any particular authority with regard to the petition.

Although I represented that this answer was unsatisfactory and not to be reconciled with the expressions in the Archbishop's letter, Mr. Hava declined giving any further answer without seeing a copy of the original or a translation of the letter.

I then communicated to him the contents of Lord Aberdeen's letter to Archbishop Murad, which with the other papers I have the honour to return to your Excellency herewith inclosed.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) ALMERIC WOOD.

No. 31.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 120.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, July 31, 1844.

MY despatch to Lord Cowley No. 187, of which I transmitted a copy to your Excellency on the 8th instant, will have placed your Excellency in full possession of the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government respecting the present state of the Syrian question; and therefore in acknowledging the receipt of your Excellency's despatches on that matter, Nos. 119, 120, 122, 132, and 134, I have only to acquaint you that I entirely approve of your having sent Mr. Alison to Syria for the purpose of collecting information as to the exact position of affairs in that country.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 32

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 2.)

(No. 154.)

My Lord,

Bayukdery, July 17, 1844.

BY letters of the 4th instant from Beyrout I learn that the Captain Pasha's squadron had arrived there a few days before, that his Excellency and Assad Pasha had communicated with Colonel Rose and Mr. Alison, both as to the disturbed districts of Besharré and Bekan, and also as to the settlement of the general administration of the Mountain; that the language of the several Consuls corresponded with that of the respective Representatives here, that the instructions given to Habi Pasha were in keeping with the tenor of the Porte's assurances to me, as already submitted to your Lordship; that deputies were summoned from the Mountain to receive the communications of the Pashas, that the Captain Pasha was provided with means, both of persuasion and of authority, to engage the consent of the more reasonable, and that active measures for the reduction of the refractory inhabitants of the Besharré, in concert with the Emir Haidar, were in operation under the immediate command of Assad Pasha, who had issued a proclamation declaratory of the Porte's resolution to exclude the Shehabs for ever from the Government of the Mountain.

The Porte received despatches by the same opportunity from the two Pashas at Beyrout. The Secretary of State has not made any communication to me upon the subject beyond announcing the fact of Assad Pasha's departure for Tripoli with a naval and military force. But his Excellency has invited me to an interview on the 21st instant, stating that he has no earlier day at his disposal, and proposing to confer with me upon the affairs of Syria before the departure of the steam-packet on the 24th.

In the mean time I have obtained from one of my colleagues the accompanying translated copy of the proclamation already mentioned as having been issued by Assad Pasha, and that of another addressed more particularly to the Christians of the Mountain by the same authority.

Of neither of these documents have I yet received copies from Beyrout, an omission which I ascribe to the unavoidable hurry in which the despatches had been forwarded. I cannot answer for the fidelity of the translations.

I am free to say that although the military expedition sent to restore order in the district of Besharré, as a preliminary to entering upon the settlement of the pending questions of indemnity and administration, has my sincere concurrence, and although I do not feel myself at liberty to blame the Pasha of Sidon for proclaiming the permanent exclusion of the Shehabs, I should have been better pleased if his Excellency had abstained from that step, if he had shown of the Mountain with punishment for petitioning in their favour, and had shown a less forward disposition to stifle any prevailing discontent by means of personal coercion.

The French Ambassador has presented to Rifat Pasha a kind of protest against the proclamation. I have not seen the paper. I heard of its existence from Rifat Pasha; and M. de Bourqueney, when I gave him the opening, informed me that it was in the shape of an instruction to his dragoman, and intended for subsequent communication to his colleagues. I believe that the Internuncio has taken a similar step, but he has not honoured me with any portion of his confidence on the occasion, and the separate meetings between his Excellency and the French Ambassador are so secret that I cannot warrant the supposition of their continuing to act in strict concert with each other on the subject of Syria.

M. de Bourqueney has just left my house. In the course of conversation he went over most of the ground which we had discussed on previous occasions. He asserted most vehemently that he had never in any degree or measure whatever encouraged the opposition to the plan of 1842, or countenanced any intrigue on behalf of the Shehabs, he dwelt much upon the identity of language between the late French Consul at Beyrout, who had returned to Paris, and his successor, young and inexperienced in the affairs of the Mountain. He intimated more than a suspicion that Colonel Rose was tethered down to an erroneous view of things by certain habits of thought which had hardened into prejudice by long indulgence, and he did not disguise his belief that there was more of obstinacy than conviction in my unwillingness to join him in abandoning, without instructions, the plan agreed upon by the Five Powers and the Porte for another which the Porte declared for ever inadmissible, and which three out of the Five Powers had not yet accepted. I explained, as before, to Baron Bourqueney the several stages and motives of my conduct. Admitting the sincerity of his declaration as to his own conduct and correspondence, I could not conceal that there existed appearances of another and extraordinary influence, nor did I hesitate to maintain, what indeed does not admit of question, that the charge of inconsistency applies neither to Her Majesty's Government nor to their Representative here, and that if I am unable to move in concert with my French and Austrian colleagues, the difficulty arises from the separate line adopted permanently by the Courts which they respectively represent, and their determination to take no further step in support of the plan agreed upon though the Porte adheres faithfully to that agreement, and is actually endeavouring to carry it into execution.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 32.

Proclamation of Assaad Pasha to the Inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

NOUS émanons notre présent ordre, auquel on doit se conformer, à tous les Chrétiens de la Montagne en général depuis Djebel-Besharré jusqu'à Djouni, qui doivent savoir que depuis quelques jours son Excellence le Capoudan Pacha est arrivé ici avec la flotte triomphante chargée d'un très grand nombre de troupes victorieuses et d'une très grande quantité de provisions et de munitions. Son Excellence est autorisée d'arranger d'accord avec nous les affaires du Mont Liban et d'organiser son système d'administration. Nous venons d'apprendre que quelques uns des turbulents ennemis de la tranquillité publique, d'accord avec un certain nombre de Druses, sont sur le point d'adresser à son Excellence une pétition pour le prier de faire retourner à la Montagne l'Emir Béchir Shehab en qualité de Gouverneur du Mont Liban, ce qui est impossible d'obtenir, puisque la Sublime Porte, d'accord avec les Puissances amies, a décidé de ne plus accepter à son service ni l'Emir Béchir, ni aucun membre de sa famille, absolument comme ses mesures pourraient compromettre la tranquillité publique et principalement votre repos, il faut que vous vous absteniez de commettre de semblables actions. Nous espérons par l'aide de Dieu et le moyen de la Sublime Porte, que toute la population en général aura à jour de la plus parfaite tranquillité.

Inclosure 2 in No. 32

Bouyrouldi of Assaad Pasha

Traduction.)

13 Djemazi-ul-aba 1260 (1 Juillet, 1844).

A TOUS les Emirs, Sheiks, notables, ainsi qu'aux chefs des villages, aux paysans et à tous les habitants du Mont Liban à partir du district de Jaffa jusqu'à l'extrémité du Meten

Nous vous donnons à connaître ce qui suit.

Son Altesse le Capoudan Pacha est arrivé avec un grand nombre de vaisseaux appartenant à la flotte Impériale et armés de soldats de l'armée régulière de Sa Hautesse. Les ordres suprêmes lui enjoignent de travailler de concert avec moi à l'exécution des mesures arrêtées à l'égard des affaires du Liban. Ces dispositions se rapportent à la question des indemnités, à la question de l'administration et autres, enfin au rétablissement de la paix et de la tranquillité parmi tous les habitants et pauvres de la Montagne, et dès ce moment avec l'aide de Dieu nous avons commencé à mettre en pratique tout ce qu'il faut pour l'accomplissement de cette tâche. Mais il est parvenu à notre connaissance qu'il règne aujourd'hui parmi les deux nations de Druses et de Chrétiens, un mouvement tendant à la réduction d'adresses dans lesquelles on voudrait demander le retour de l'Emir Béchir de la famille Shehab au Gouvernement du Liban. Ceci est impossible et ne peut être réalisé, vu les décisions prises par le Sultan de concert avec les Puissances amies. Aussi ne puis-je que m'étonner de la légèreté et du peu de jugement avec lesquels ces populations se sont livrées à un mouvement qui y est opposé, et qui n'offrant aucune chance de succès ne peut leur être d'aucun profit, mais qui au contraire peut leur attirer des punitions.

Or, mis par un sentiment de pitié pour vous tous, et pour vous avertir des conséquences que pourraient avoir vos vains efforts, nous vous avons adressé le présent bouyrouldi. Quand il vous sera parvenu et quand vous en aurez pris connaissance, vous devez tâcher de sortir de votre aveuglement et de revenir de vos égarements. Venez tous, grands et petits, nobles et gens du peuple, que le nom de l'Emir Béchir et de toute la famille Shehab ne se présente plus sur vos lèvres; croyez fermement que la réinstallation de l'Emir Béchir et de toute la famille Shehab est impossible, et abstenez-vous de propos

semblables à ceux mentionnés plus haut. Sous les glorieux auspices de Sa Hautesse on s'efforce de donner la paix et la tranquillité à tous les habitants; on tâche d'amener à une solution satisfaisante les questions des indemnités, de l'administration et autres; et certes avec l'aide du Tout Puissant tous finiront par obtenir les bienfaits du repos et de la sécurité qui formaient l'objet de leurs vœux. Mais aussi est-il nécessaire qu'ils se tiennent tous tranquilles et qu'ils s'abstiennent de tout mouvement de tout genre au sujet de l'Emir Béchir ou de la famille Shehab. Si cependant, ce qu'à Dieu ne plaise, je cesse d'apprendre dorénavant encore, soit qu'un tel propos ait été tenu, soit qu'on se soit employé à faire dresser des suppliques à cet égard, etc., celui qui aurait agi ou parlé de cette manière encourrait inévitablement la peine méritée. Il n'y aurait aucun pardon pour lui, et il se repentirait trop tard de sa conduite. Gardez-vous bien donc de contrevenir à ces ordres, afin que vous ne tombiez pas dans l'abîme de la misère.

C'est pourquoi nous avons donné le présent bouyrouldi qui émane de notre Divan Moushirien de la Province de Saïda et de ses dépendances. Lorsqu'il vous sera parvenu et que vous aurez saisi son contenu, empressez-vous de vous y conformer et gardez-vous d'y contrevenir.

No. 33.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received August 23.)

(No. 157.)

My Lord,

Beyrouder, July 30, 1844

ON the 22nd instant I had the honour to receive your Lordship's instruction No. 104, relating to the affairs of Mount Lebanon. It was highly satisfactory to me to find that I had not erred in presuming that "Her Majesty's Government were not yet prepared to sanction the overthrow of a system which they did not consider to have had a fair trial." The communication of this intelligence proved very gratifying to the Porte, though some apprehension was excited by the contingency of a failure in the present experiment, and consequently of the possible accession of England at a later period to the views of France and Austria.

The Representatives of these two Powers continue in the same position as before. They have given in a sort of protest against the proclamation of Assaad Pasha, threatening with punishment any individual who should dare to petition or even to express his sentiments in favour of the restoration of the Sheik. I agree with them in condemning the employment of such a menace, and Rifaat Pasha entertains and promises to give effect to a similar opinion.

I have received no advice from Beyrouth of a later date than the 4th instant. At that time the Pasha of Sidon had gone with a body of troops and a part of the Captain Pasha's squadron to Tripoli, with a view to repressing the insurrectionary movement in the district of Besharré. Preparations were meanwhile in progress for the settlement of affairs pending in the Mountain. A copy of Colonel Kose's principal despatch on this subject is enclosed herewith. From the result of my communications with Rifaat Pasha subsequent to the receipt of it, I beg to refer your Lordship to the accompanying copies of my last despatches to Beyrouth.

The Porte appears to be in earnest both as to persevering in the course of policy previously adopted, and as to employing every means within its power to secure firmness, for the removal of those obstacles which it was reasonable to expect.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs, of the instructions now forwarded to the Captain Pasha, with whom the Pasha of Sidon will continue to co-operate on his return from Tripoli. I may venture to assure you that any remark or suggestion which you may have occasion to offer, will be received by their Excellencies with every disposition to view them in a friendly and favourable light.

Besides alleviating the burden of the indemnities by making them payable at successive periods, I shall be greatly disappointed if the Pashas are not prepared to come in aid of the payment by some financial sacrifice indicative of the Sultan's benevolence. Whatever may be in contemplation on this score, the Porte is desirous of making it exclusively an act of its own, calculated to secure the affection as well as the allegiance of those for whose relief it is destined.

I venture upon the whole to entertain a sanguine hope that you will be able to contribute powerfully to the removal of those difficulties which still retard the solution of this delicate and complicated affair. You are distinctly enjoined by the Earl of Aberdeen "to continue to the utmost of your ability to promote the success of that form of Government which the Five Powers and the Porte agreed to establish in the Lebanon;" and the Porte's high functionaries are not only invested with the authority and provided with the means of co-operating efficiently for the common object, but ready to consult unreservedly with you as to the most expedient and conciliatory methods of hastening its accomplishment.

It is no doubt to be lamented that the combined exertions of the Five Powers cannot be reckoned upon at the present crisis for the success of that plan which was adopted in 1642 by all of them, and some impediments to the adoption of a decisive uncompromising course of proceeding arise out of this circumstance, but as the Austrian and French Representatives profess not to oppose the measures of the Porte, but only to await the issue of the experiment involved in them, it may be hoped that notwithstanding so serious a drawback, the judicious nature of those measures and the good sense of the more reflecting classes in Mount Lebanon will finally succeed in giving effect to the benevolent and consistent views of Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 3 in No. 33.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

(No. 13. Confidential.)

Sir,

Bugaberry, July 25, 1844.

FOR your more complete information and assistance I transmit to you in this confidential shape a memorandum of the points elicited from Rifat Pasha in an interview which I had with him yesterday, and attached to each paragraph you will find a note by M. Pisani, whom I directed to call upon his Excellency this morning, and to ascertain whether I had retained an exact recollection of his several statements and assurances.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 4 in No. 33.

Memorandum of points agreed upon between Sir Stratford Canning and Rifat Pasha.

1. The Porte determines to abide by the agreement of 1842, Halil Pasha and Assaad Pasha are ordered to co-operate for its fulfilment without any unnecessary delay.

Exact pour ce qui regarde l'arrangement, mais on n'écrit qu'à Halil Pasha. Celui-ci naturellement s'entendra avec Assaad s'il le faut.

2. No persons are to be arrested except for overt acts of resistance to authority.

Exact.

3. The right of petitioning is not to be precluded.

Exact.

4. The late bouyrouldi is to be disapproved of in that respect.

Exact.

5. A fresh proclamation will be issued announcing the Porte's determination, assuring the loyal and quiet inhabitants of the Mountain that they have nothing to apprehend, and engaging to afford every reasonable facility for securing the privileges of all classes, and their tranquillity and the arrangements agreed upon.

Cet article est assez exact, quant aux privilèges que le Colonel Rose s'entend avec Halil Pasha.

6. The Albanians to be withdrawn from the neighbourhood of the Mountain, and particularly from Beyrout.

Exact.

7. Regulars alone at Deir-el-Kamar, and as much as possible regulars alone at Beyrout.

Si les troupes régulières sont déjà à Deir-el-Kamar, alors elles y restent mais on assurera aux habitants que c'est uniquement pour leur sûreté et tranquillité et aucunement pour les occuper en rien.

8. One battalion gone, other troops about to follow.

Exact.

9. The indemnities and recovery of plundered property to be specially facilitated by easy terms of payment, and such financial aids as the Government in its munificence has resolved to give and will afford in the manner found on the spot to be most convenient and effectual.

Exact.

10. The geographical division to be maintained with such helps and modifications as the Pashas may decide upon after communicating confidentially with the Consuls, the principle being, that in the mixed districts generally, the inhabitants should have a Vakeel, particularly for the collection of the taxes, to interpose between them and the respective Kaimacams, with the power of emigration for a given time; and that in Deir-el-Kamar the local administration of the Druses and Maronites should be separate and independent of the Kaimacams.

Rifaat dit qu'on n'a rien écrit sur ce point à présent; mais qu'on a écrit il y a quelque temps. Mais Rifaat Pacha vous autorise à écrire sur les points de ce paragraphe au Colonel Rose, et de lui dire de s'entendre là-dessus avec Halil Pacha, qui a ordre de se concerter en tout avec le Consul-Général.

(Signed) FREDERIC PISANI

No. 33.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 174.)

My Lord,

Buyukdery, August 10, 1844

INVITED by Rifaat Pasha to a confidential interview I waited upon his Excellency yesterday morning, and found that he wished to consult me on the subject of Syria and the present state of its affairs. The Porte he said was embarrassed not only by the difficulty of bringing matters to a final settlement in Mount Lebanon, but by the discontent and refractory disposition manifested in various parts of the whole province. He added that the Captain Pasha and the Pasha of Sidon had brought the question in its full extent under the consideration of the Sultan's Government, applying at the same time for reinforcements and fuller instructions. He read me in substance, their joint despatch to the Grand Vizier, a separate despatch from the Captain Pasha, and the Council's report thereon to the Sultan, together with His Majesty's reply.

I observed that the despatches corresponded in their general tenour with my own advice from Beyrout. They described the disputes of Besharré and Bekaa as virtually settled; they complained of the disturbed state of the country; of the intrigues set on foot by partisans of the Shehab family; of the degree to which the efforts of the Ottoman authorities had been paralysed by rumours circulated expressly of their not being at liberty to use force, they mentioned with satisfaction the support derived from Colonel Rose, and spoke of the other Consuls in terms agreeing with our former impressions; they urged the necessity of sending considerable reinforcements to Syria without delay, and finally intimated that the questions peculiar to Mount Lebanon, namely those of the

satisfactory adjustment, the latter of being continued on their present footing.

In the report submitted to the Sultan by the Council, a statement of the case and its difficulties on either side was followed by a proposal to take my opinion and to send a Commissioner to Syria.

It appeared from the Sultan's rescript of the report, that His Majesty's approbation had been given to both these suggestions.

Such being the circumstances under which I was solicited to express my opinion, I did not hesitate to give it, bearing in mind the facts of the case, and

your Lordship's instructions, without losing sight of those delicate considerations which in more than one respect attach to this question in its present state.

I urged the expediency of carrying into full effect without any unnecessary delay the plan of settlement long since adopted for Mount Lebanon; of accelerating its execution by all reasonable facilities and modifications, of sending a reinforcement of regular troops, according to the request of the Pashas, for the maintenance of public order and to check by their presence the movements of faction and insubordination. I recommended the Porte to explain its intentions without reserve, kindly but firmly, to the inhabitants of the Mountain, and in other parts of Syria to enforce the Sultan's authority, if it were needed, by military control; but at the same time to inquire into the public grievances with a view to their alleviation and satisfaction. For these purposes I strongly advised that the Commissioner intended for Beyrout should not be sent to Mount Lebanon, where his presence would only sow doubt and mistrust, but that he should be directed to put himself at once in communication with the disturbed parts of Syria outside the Mountain, and be the interpreter of the Sultan's generous intentions, even to the misguided among his subjects.

Rifaat Pasha appeared upon the whole to approve of my opinions, which were subsequently laid before the Council, and to all appearance virtually accepted, though it was evident that no small reluctance existed to change the destination of the Commissioner, and to send the full complement of troops demanded by the Pashas at Beyrout.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 35.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 11.)

(No. 175.)

My Lord,

Buyukdery, August 16, 1844

ON the 11th instant I received from Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria the several despatches inclosed herewith.

In the general tenour of their contents they agree with the information conveyed to me by Mr. Alison, and they are further corroborated as to the violence of the priests and other factious Agents in the Shehab interest by the testimony of Count Pourtalès, lately Prussian Chargé d'Affaires at this Court, who, as well as Mr. Alison, has been recently an eye-witness of the principal events in Mount Lebanon.

The receipt of information thus forcibly confirming our previous impressions, such unwarrantable means were employed by the agents, whether native or foreign, of a repudiated cause, occasioned further communications between the Turkish Ministers and myself.

The result of these communications being consigned to my correspondence with Colonel Rose, I have the honour to refer your Lordship to the copies inclosed herewith of the latest despatches which I have addressed to that officer.

The Turkish steamer in which Omer Effendi and a detachment of troops had embarked, left Constantinople yesterday, and Rifaat Pasha has sent me word that he had gone purposely on board to see Omer Effendi, and had instructed him verbally to redress any crying injustice complained of by the people without waiting for further authority from the Porte.

This injunction applies more especially to parts of Syria exclusive of the Mountain, where a dangerous spirit of discontent has been raised by the extreme

With respect to Mount Lebanon, I have particularly recommended, and I believe with effect, that the mode of petitioning should be regulated under present circumstances, without prejudice to the right, and that in the districts of mixed population the mediating and protecting power of the Christian Vakeels should be strengthened by all practicable means consistent with the

general superintending authority of the Druse Emir, especially as to the collection of taxes and judicial proceedings.

On the whole, there is much reason to expect that the adopted plan of administration will be carried into execution without any further disturbance of the public peace; but the Porte has apprized me of its intention not to have recourse to military coercion for that purpose without previously consulting the Consuls of the Five Powers. This very prudent intention increases the expediency of maintaining public order and controlling the spirit of intrigue by judicious measures in the mean time. For it is manifest that a knowledge of that intention, coupled with the encouragement given by Catholic agents and, as it would seem, by the French Consul and his instruments, to the partisans of the Shehab family, cannot fail to counteract and probably to frustrate the measures of the Porte, notwithstanding the efforts of Her Majesty's Consul-General and some of his colleagues, if the means of intrigue and agitation be left without check or control at the disposal of a rash and unprincipled faction. Upon this point the subject I am anxious to suggest to your Lordship's attention to the first of my accompanying despatches to Colonel Rose, and to request that I may be informed in time of the views of Her Majesty's Government. The experiment now in operation may finally fail, either from want of fair play, or, what I see no reason to anticipate, from a general recognition of its defects. For the latter contingency your Lordship's instruction to Lord Cowley appears sufficiently to provide. It is the former and I want to say the more probable case of the two, for which I am anxious to be seasonably prepared by your Lordship's superior judgment.

I have, &c.,
Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No 36.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 39)
Sir,

Beirut, August 2, 1844

I HAVE the satisfaction to state to your Excellency that the insurrectionary movement in Gebbet Besharré, excited by Archbishop Murad and his party, has been quelled, and in a manner beneficial to the authority of the Government and the interest of the country.

1st. The insurgent inhabitants have paid 40,000 piastres on account of arrears of the land tax, the estimated point of difference.

2nd. The insurgent chiefs have sworn obedience to the order of Assaad Pasha and their Kaimakam, and have themselves before the latter and declared their submission and acknowledged the authority of the Emir Haidar (which they had before denied) and their determination to obey him for the future.

3rd. I feel sincere pleasure in stating that the above salutary measures have been effected without the loss of a single drop of blood whatever.

So good a result must be ascribed to the prudence and humanity of Assaad Pasha and the Emir Haidar, the latter throughout showed the most laudable desire to assert his authority over his misguided countrymen in a manner which whilst it recalled them to the sense of their duty towards their legitimate superior, would make them think hereafter of the exercise of the authority of their Christian ruler with gratitude and respect.

In this sense and in obedience to the Earl of Aberdeen's and your Excellency's instructions I give notice to Assaad Pasha and the Emir Haidar that it was attended with a good result is a source of unfeigned satisfaction to me.

Assaad Pasha in proof of his gratitude has given a robe of honour richly embroidered to the Emir Haidar who has left with the troops the position in advance which he took up at Amoon and returned to Djebail, on his road to Beirut.

Assaad Pasha has promised full investigation and if necessary an equitable adjustment of the land tax.

But it is my duty to state that the wishes of Archbishop Murad were near completion, his exhortations and other causes had nearly produced war between the insurgents and the troops; priests, yes in their sacerdotal dress the designation of a far different occupation, in obedience to his instigations were forcing the young men into the ranks which Joseph Karamy was falling in to march in defence of insurrection against the forces of the Sovereign. Other priests marched on the same errand with a musket.

Some of these clergymen, it is true, so far endeavoured to adopt their professional dress to their military occupation as to tie a handkerchief like a turban round their clerical head dress.

Joseph Karamy, who declared that although France might have abandoned them, he would still risk all for her "gloire," had actually lead his force, composed as I stated, half way through the Mountain to the Plain, with the view of attacking the troops, when an order from his father Butros stopped him, and directed him only to repel with force any attempt on the part of the authorities to enter the Mountain.

I regret to be obliged to direct your Excellency's attention to the conduct of the French Consul in the matter of Besharré, as most unsuited to his character as a foreign agent, and detrimental to the interests of the Porte.

On the 18th ultimo, M. Poujade waited on the Captain Pasha, and informed his Excellency that he had just received an express from the disturbed district of Gebbet Besharré, which stated that an engagement had taken place there the day before, in which the troops of the Government had been defeated.

The French Consul followed up this information by proposing to send his dragoman, M. Peretier, to pacify the country.

The French Consul immediately after saw M. Bauly and told him that the Captain Pasha had approved his proposition, whereas his Excellency informed the same gentleman that he believed the French Consul that if he sent any one to the district in question he was quite ignorant of his doing so.

Unfortunately for the French Consul, I saw a letter from the Maronite Kaimakam, which stated that on the very day on which he had stated an engagement had taken place, the insurgents had sent a messenger to Assaad Pasha to beg him to send an officer on his part, as they wished to make terms which have ended in their entire submission.

The Captain Pasha was made acquainted with the real state of the case from me, and directly afterwards by an express from Assaad Pasha who received an express order not to enter into any negotiations with the French dragoman, unless by his special order.

The French dragoman did not go. M. Bauly was most useful on this occasion.

The object of the French Consul was clear. Seeing that the insurgents were about to submit to their legitimate authority, he wished to make such terms for them as would have prevented their submission from being so complete as it has been, and would have centered in France the gratitude of the insurgents to the prejudice of the legitimate Government.

The insurgents would of course have rallied round the French dragoman, and then the affair would have become what is always dangerous in this country—a French one.

Again, a Carmelite monk states that the inhabitants of Besharré on another occasion were preparing to submit, when on the arrival of a kavass of the French Consulate at Beirut in the district, the inhabitants resumed their hostile attitude.

The Captain Pasha complained forcibly of the conduct of the French Consul to Mr. Alison and myself.

I also have the satisfaction to announce to your Excellency the termination of the very difficult and complicated affair of the Bekaa, the more difficult because Assaad and Ali Pashas and the Desferdar were of different ways of thinking as to it.

Your Excellency is aware that the point in dispute was, whether certain properties in that valley belonged to the Government or the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

There were faults on both sides, the Government wished to take, and the Mountaineers to retain, too much; but finally the Mountaineers stated to me that the treasury should not be a loser, that they would pay all which the

appaltator paid, and that they only asked for themselves the gain of the appaltator.

The Bekaa is the granary of the greater part of the Lebanon, in which very little corn is grown. The rise in the Bekaa the Mountaineers would be in the greatest distress. The Mountaineers hold the lands there by virtue of berats and other titles, but the greater part have no right over properties (acquired probably in the first instance by force) but that of custom and possession for a length of years, which in this country nearly takes the place of law.

Bozou Agha, hated on account of former exactions and tyrannies for which he had been deprived of his post as appaltator of the Bekaa, had been sent there as Governor.

The Emirs, Sheiks, and commonalty of the Mountain, alarmed for their properties, had descended in great numbers to Kobb-Elias in the Bekaa, to try the chance of arms with Bozou Agha rather than lose their properties.

Bozou Agha, with a large cavalry force, was at Bir Elias, only six miles off, and on the pretext of getting rations was making exactions.

For the sake of humanity and order, I should have interfered to prevail on the authorities to inquire into and thereby settle a matter which from the temper of the interested parties threatened to occasion a lamentable loss of life, but other forcible reasons rendered intervention on my part still more necessary.

1. The French Agent, as I before had the honour to state, had been very active in promoting the union of Christian and Druse armed force in the Bekaa for the purpose of resisting the Government. The chief Druse actor in the matter is Sheik Youssuf Abd-el-Melek, a partner in a French mercantile house. He is the same person who got up the revolt of the Druses in 1842, at the instigation of the French agitating merchant M. Portalis, and afterwards found refuge in Mr. Wood's house.

2. The general belief was that the Christian and Druse union, successful in their attack in the Bekaa, and committed by war with the Government, would easily be induced to declare for a Shehab.

The union far superior to them in numbers, and fighting for what to them was their all, would in all probability have signally defeated Bozou Agha, who had only cavalry, which in villages and intercepted country would have been of little use.

4. I regret to say that I have information derived from two good sources, that the French Consul proceeded to Betater, and exhorted the inhabitants of the country to go to the Bekaa and fight. Betater is the seat of Sheik Youssuf Abd-el-Melek.

by the assistance of Mr. Wood, on Ali Pasha, and personally on the Captain Pasha and the Mountaineers.

In the first instance, with the judicious and zealous aid of Mr. Alison, I obtained from the Captain Pasha a promise of inquiry into and settlement of the disputed property in the Bekaa.

Thus effected, I immediately asked from both parties that there should be a total cessation of action, representing that it would be as deplorable as it was senseless to fight for that for which a fair adjustment had been promised.

With the greatest difficulty I have at last effected this desirable end, but the indecision of the Captain Pasha and excited feeling of the Mountaineers, at the prospect of a collision; the war-cry had passed through the district of Meten, and the numerous tribes were descending to reinforce their companions in the Bekaa; but by obtaining fresh orders from the Captain Pasha, the arrival of a favourable answer from Ali Pasha of Damascus through Mr. Wood, and other means, I succeeded in preventing the descent of the Mountaineers.

I stopped myself one Maronite chief whose men were falling in and were loading, and by letters and other means brought the Christian and Druse leaders of the movement to submission.

The result is that it is settled,—

1. That Bozou Agha is to suspend all proceedings as to the crops of the

disputed villages in the Bekaa, and that the Mountaineers are to do the same.

2. That each party are to name Vakeels who will value and place the crops in store, where they are to remain till a settlement takes place.

3. That Bozou Agha is to give a receipt for all rations which he takes for his cavalry, which rations will be settled for hereafter.

I again have the satisfaction to congratulate your Excellency on a result which I know will afford an unmingled satisfaction to Her Majesty's Government, namely that two fierce and semi-barbarous parties were prevented from shedding profusely their blood in savage combat. On the score of policy and order the result is equally satisfactory.

Mr. Consul Wood's aid was most effective.

It is not necessary that I should draw your Excellency's attention to the painful contrast afforded by the French Consul to that of Her Majesty's Consul.

We, as always, have done our utmost to prevent effusion of blood, disorder, and misprision of the legitimate authority. But, as in Nabloos, a French Consular Agent again appears as an exciter of insurrectionary war.

As a matter of course, both this gentleman and his superior will deny the possibility of their having done such things. The policy which makes such proceedings possible will certainly not scruple to cloak them by a strenuous denial.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH ROSE.

P.S.—I should have stated that it was mainly owing to the well-timed exhortations of Mr. Alison, who was with the Patriarch, that the ten insurgent chiefs proceeded to make submission to their Kaimacam.

Inclosure 2 in No. 35.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 40.)
Sir,

Beirut, August 2, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's confidential despatch No. 13, with its inclosure, a memorandum.

With respect to the third point of the latter I have the honour most respectfully to ask your Excellency's further instructions respecting it, as it appears to me that the instructions which I have received from the Government communicated to me last year, and which I have obeyed, as I always make a point of doing, as an instruction.

After speaking of the resolution of Her Majesty's Government not to hear of anything calculated to disturb the actual order of things in the Mountain, of the Shehabs and Archbishop Murad's projects respecting them, your Excellency was pleased to tell me that in your opinion all distracting petitions not founded on real and curable grievances should be discouraged.

I have already had the honour to report to your Excellency my compliance with this opinion. I had not forwarded to your Excellency the petition from the Christians in the mixed districts against the present form of government, and in the same sense I conceived that I was acting entirely according to the views of your Excellency in giving advice to Asaad Pasha to discourage and forbid a projected petition in favour of the Shehabs, as is stated in my despatch No. 33; for I thought that your Excellency's opinion referred especially to petitions in favour of a change for a Shehab, the point on which Asaad Pasha consulted me; and being instructed to give advice to the Turkish authorities when they ask for it, I could only advise Asaad Pasha to discourage petitions which I had already discouraged in deference to your Excellency's opinion.

But I had still further reasons for giving this advice, for the Porte had excluded the Shehabs from the Government of the Lebanon, and the Five Great Powers had acknowledged her right to do so.

Over and over again not only myself but the Turkish authorities have announced the rejection of the Shehabs by the Porte, and the concurrence of the Powers in that rejection.

Such being the case, in the teeth of such facts the petition of Turkish Rayahs for a rule which the Turkish Government had formally and legitimately declared it would never grant, was an offence against the rights of sovereignty of the Porte which I am ordered to support; but the most effectual support which I can give is counsel, when these rights are involved or invaded.

And these considerations acquired the greater weight because the petition as it was presented was projected or set up not at all by the Christian population of the Lebanon, but by a faction, as the Earl of Aberdeen justly terms it, a faction which has endeavoured and is still endeavouring to prevent their Christian brethren from living in harmony and happiness with the Druses, yes, has even denounced the punishment of death to those who do so.

A faction which in their wickedness had already at Djezin attempted the life and grievously wounded two peaceable Christians, whose only crime was that they had shown a disposition to obey the orders of the Porte as to the new form of Government against which the faction of the Shehabs had pledged themselves.

Moreover when I advised Assaad Pasha, as I did, the time was peculiarly critical.

The district of Gebbet-Besharré, excited by Archbishop Murad, the Shehabs and a foreign interest, was in insurrection.

The Bekas, from the same causes, in very much the same state.

The French, as I had reason to believe, and Shehabs, in misprision of all truth, had shamelessly asserted that the Captain Pasha had been ordered by the Porte to reinstate the Shehabs, and that the Emir Beshir or one of his sons was actually on board the "Mahmoudié," the Captain Pasha's flag-ship. They spread this report through the country, in order by the intimidation of the cruel Emir's name, and the fear of his vengeance on his return to power, to paralyze the public mind and to force people to sign the petition which the Shehabs and the French had put in circulation.

My advice was against a petition got up for factious and unfair purposes by a faction and an illegitimate foreign influence.

Your Excellency has been pleased especially to instruct me as to discouraging intrigues, but there never was a more barefaced intrigue than the French and Shehabs' petition which I advised Assaad Pasha to forbid when he consulted me thereon.

But as I have had the honour to state to your Excellency in another despatch, I gave no advice whatever as to threat of punishment, which was quite the Pasha's own act.

For these reasons so copiously stated, and particularly on account of the opinion of your Excellency communicated to me in September last year, I cannot think that your Excellency's order to sanction presentation of petitions in favour of the Shehabs, although the words in Nos. 2 and 3 points in the Memorandum, inclosure in No. 13, and your Excellency's remark "exact" attached to or opposite them, must induce that supposition.

And I am the more induced to think that there is some error in this respect, because your Excellency in your despatch No. 12, does not disapprove the advice which I gave to Assaad Pasha as stated in my despatch No. 24 to your Excellency, but only disapproves the threat of punishment.

I cannot help thinking, therefore, that your Excellency by your approbation of points 2 and 3 fully meant to say and approve of the threat of punishment, not that you sanctioned petitions in favour of the Shehabs.

But I again respectfully request your Excellency to be pleased to instruct me on this important matter, for I should not do my duty by your Excellency if I did not assure you that this is my conviction. If the petitioners for those friendly to the Shehabs are allowed to petition for them, the authority of the Porte will be so lowered, her declared and known and ratified wishes will be so set at naught, that the Turkish authorities will never have sufficient influence to put in execution the new form of Government.

The country will be agitated from one end to the other by the circulation of a fresh petition in favour of the Shehabs, the Turks using all sorts of means of intimidation, intrigue, and indirect force to prevent, the Shehabs the same means to promote, its success.

The inhabitants of the insurrectionary district in Gebbet-Besharré, just brought to a proper submission, would again be agitated by demands of the Shehabs to sign a petition in their favour that is against their Kaunacam, although they have just promised him, their Kaunacam, to obey him implicitly and faithfully for the future.

But, worst of all, the population of the Lebanon would perceive in a permission to petition for the Shehabs, entire uncertainty in the counsels of the Powers, and a non-recognition of the right of exclusion on the part of the Porte, which right they acknowledged so formally in December 1842.

Another great evil of such uncertainty would be that all classes would then think that the return of the Shehabs was most probable, and through sheer fear of the power and the vengeance of an Emir who must on account of his reckless and constant violation of the rights of humanity, be denominated "the cruel," hasten to appease him by an unqualified show of interest and submission in his favour.

Uncertainty and doubt are the main causes of the present state of things in the Lebanon.

I quite agree with your Excellency as to the necessity of not precluding the right of petition in Turkey, but then there must be a limit. Turkish subjects of course could not petition for the abrogation of any fundamental law of the empire, or for the appointment of a foreign prince as ruler over any province, or I venture to think of a Turkish subject whose formal exclusion by the Porte has been ratified by the Five Great Powers.

I think it right to adduce one practical fact which speaks powerfully as to the present state of things in the Lebanon. The one single mounted man traversed the Lebanon with the bouyrouldi of exclusion of the Shehabs, and never met with the slightest insult or hindrance, nor did the reading cause anywhere commotion or expression of displeasure.

With respect to the second point in the memorandum which I ought to have considered first, I venture to request your Excellency's instruction on the following points:—

1. Should the Turkish authority announce the details of the new plan of Government to the interested provinces or their deputies and order them to obey them, and should they refuse to do so, and after repeated and categorical advice still refuse, would the Turkish authority be justified in treating such refusal as an overt act of resistance to authority or not?

2. Should the Turkish authority, as a detail and part of the new plan of Government, order the mixed population to choose a Vakeel, and should they after repeated and conciliatory advice refuse to name such Vakeel, ought such refusal to be considered as an overt act of resistance or not, in both cases no resort being had to corporal punishment?

A decision on these two important points involves the fate of the new form of Government.

With respect to point 10 in the Memorandum I venture to suggest to your Excellency whether it would not be better that there should be no consultation between the Turkish authority and the Consuls of the Five Powers collectively.

Divided and therefore dangerous counsel, and consequent popular agitation, would be the only result.

I venture to think that the best plan is that the Porte should carry out the details of the new form of Government, consulting confidentially as occasions require, the Consuls of the Five Powers which wish well to it.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RUGH ROSE.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 41.)

Sir,

Beirut, August 3, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to acknowledge the receipt of your Excellency's despatch No. 12.

It is a source of great satisfaction to me that your Excellency has approved of the advice which I gave as to the insurrectionary movement in Gebbet Besharré, and which your Excellency will be pleased to see has met with a favourable result.

With respect to the bouyrouldi mentioned by your Excellency, I beg to say that I had nothing whatever to do with the threat of punishment ordered in it.

I gave the advice under the circumstances stated in my despatch No. 33, and which are more amply explained in my despatch No. 40.

Assaad Pasha, who it appears chose to follow his own idea and not mine, never sent me a copy of the bouyrouldi of exclusion, but after its issue a Sheik sent me a copy, which is different in some respects from the two copies of the same bouyrouldi, inclosures in your Excellency's despatch No. 12, which are also different from the translations of the same bouyrouldi.

My interpreter commenced translating the copy sent me by the Sheik, but when he came to the part where it speaks of the Five Powers which I had not advised, and I perceived that the bouyrouldi was entirely different from what I had advised, I saw that Assaad Pasha had followed his own opinion, and being much hurried with my correspondence at the time stopped the interpreter, not sorry in truth that the Pasha, by following his own idea and style, had taken all responsibility off me or appearance of advice on my part; nor did I cause a translation of it to be made till I received your Excellency's despatch No. 12, when on finding yesterday a translation to be furnished to me, I found the threatening menace, which I have the honour to agree with your Excellency for the sake of consistency, had better have been omitted.

But I hope that your Excellency will take into consideration the most difficult and embarrassing position of the Turkish authorities, which has been fully described in my despatch No. 40.

With respect to the arrest of the twenty-five ringleaders, your Excellency will have been glad to have learnt from my despatch No. 30 to the Earl of Aberdeen, that I subsequently on consideration of Halil Pasha's scheme, advised his Excellency not to put it into execution, and that Mr. Alison entirely approved this advice. Therefore we have had the advantage to act quite in accordance with your Excellency's wishes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HUGH ROSE

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

(No. 14.)

Sir,

Buyukdery, August 12, 1844.

I AVAIL myself of the earliest opportunity to reply to your despatch No. 11 of the 2nd instant, which I received the day before yesterday. Whenever it has been my duty to give instructions I have endeavoured to express them in the clearest possible terms which time and circumstances allowed, and in answer to your present application I am particularly anxious to remove any shadow of doubt from your mind.

It is still my opinion, confirmed by your later reports, that no encouragement should be given to the presentation of petitions calculated to impede the settlement of affairs in Mount Lebanon. Notwithstanding my rooted and habitual respect for the right of petition, I was not shrink, under the present circumstances of the Mountain as described in your despatches, from even exhorting you to discourage the practice by all persuasive means and to any

degree consistent with the exercise of the right in a manner respectful towards the constituted authorities and compatible with public order. I will go further still and declare my conviction with respect to petitions for the Shehab family, whose exclusion from power by the Porte, if not formally acknowledged has been at least acquiesced in by the Five Powers, and for whose restoration such unwarrantable intrigues appear to have been employed, that the Ottoman authorities are not only justified in rejecting the petitions presented to them, but bound in duty to repress all overt attempts to get them up in a tumultuary manner, or by means of excitement and intimidation.

A little reflection will I think satisfy you that there is no real contradiction between my several successive communications to you on this subject. It may at any time and in any place become proper and necessary to restrain the excess of what from the first it was objectionable to promote, and even right persuasively to discourage, at the same time that a salutary principle is to be guarded throughout, and its application to be permitted so long as the great interests of society do not peremptorily require its suspension.

To visit or even to threaten with punishment the mere act of petitioning on a subject which does not involve high treason or affect the foundations of Government, is repulsive, I apprehend, to the received principles of justice; and there is no doubt that on a late occasion the proceeding carried with it the additional objection of affording a plausible ground of complaint and interference on the part of those who were already but too much inclined to counteract the measures of the Porte and the views of Her Majesty's Government.

Having thus made clear what relates to the question of petitions, I proceed to notice the two very important points upon which you have applied to me for instructions, in a categorical form.

In the first place I am by no means certain that we are called upon to take either the one or the other of those questions out of the hands of the Turkish Government. The Christian Powers have never pretended to carry their interference in the affairs of Mount Lebanon beyond the point of securing to its inhabitants the enjoyment of a separate administration, and guaranteeing to them the exercise of their rights, more particularly promised to her by England and Austria at the period of the Syrian Expedition. This project was thought to be necessary by the arrangement of 1842 and so long as the Porte adheres with good faith to the main provisions of that arrangement, and above all while her officers are engaged in facilitating its execution by fair and considerate measures of detail, it would hardly be reasonable for me to anticipate any necessity of stipulating between the Ottoman authorities and the inhabitants of the Mountain to secure the execution of measures which they themselves are necessary to execute. It is a subject which has already been discussed by the Porte and its Allies, especially as the execution of the arrangement has already been the subject of a Convention signed by the Powers, and as the Porte has already admitted that it is a part of the process of pacification.

It is impossible to expect that the Porte will ever consent to either of the two projects which I have mentioned to which the separation of Mount Lebanon from the Empire would lead. The Porte has already shown its unwillingness to do so. These views and suggestions are, therefore, a repetition and to the same effect of what I have already said to you in my despatch No. 30. I have taken care to state in my despatch No. 30 that I have already said to you that they have already been said and should have been said to you, and that they are necessary to be said to you in an answer to your despatch No. 11. I have not meant to anticipate a complaint that I have not said more, but I have said what I have said with all the readiness and respect which I have been able to give to Her Majesty's Government and to the Ottoman authorities at stake in the present stage of the business for which you have asked me what I would only recommend my own assistance and aid.

I am at the same time fully aware how important it is that the action to be pursued and supported by the Powers should be directed to be sent to the chancery and ministers of the Porte and that the Powers should be ready to assist at any early opportunity of the whole business, and myself without much reluctance to that may mark delay in the proceedings of the Ottoman functionaries, which would probably affect the reference to England, and the receipt of a special instruction upon the points in question.

In the meanwhile I will not conceal my impression as well as my hope that by a judicious combination of measures and incentives the Porte may yet obtain a voluntary acquiescence of its measures from so large a portion of the population, as to render the discontent of the minority unavailable for any purposes of resistance and disorder, or at all events that the resistance, should any take place, will not be of that negative and tranquil description which embarrasses justice and casts odium on the exercise of authority.

In so far as my personal opinion may have any value, I do not hesitate to add that while I should conceive the refusal to name a Vakeel as only entailing the Turkish authorities to substitute a direct appointment for a popular election, the gradual enforcement, if necessary, of submission to the adopted system of administration honestly carried out, appears in my humble judgment to be the natural and legitimate consequence, not merely of the Sultan's admitted sovereignty, but also of the other principles on which the Porte and its Allies originally agreed to act.

I am, &c.
STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 5 in No. 35.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

No. 15.)

Sir,

Buyukdery, August 13, 1844.

THE success which has attended the proceedings of Asaad Pasha in the district of Bekharré, and the restoration of tranquillity in that of the Bekaa, effectual as they have been, without effusion of blood, afford me the liveliest satisfaction, and I acknowledge with pleasure the credit which those incidents reflect upon your judgment and also upon the zealous concurrence of Mr. Alison.

But I am not less anxious to see measures taken to check the progress of discontent and insubordination in Syria. They were evidently alarmed at the state of affairs in that province, and their first idea was to send a confidential Agent with instructions to make inquiry and to collect information, including Mount Lebanon in the sphere of his proceedings.

It was impossible for me to approve a plan which, far from proposing any remedial result, appeared to be framed with no object but that of delay and to escape responsibility. I made no concealment of my opinions, and had fortunately succeeded in obtaining their adoption by the Council, when your despatches arrived to confirm my previous impressions and to furnish me with additional means of rousing the Porte to a sense of its true interests.

I have now the satisfaction to inform you that Omer Effendi, appointed Commissioner by the Porte, will only touch at Beyrout to communicate with the Captain Pasha and the Pasha of Sidon, that he will then proceed in a vessel of war to some other port in Syria, whence he will commence his inquiries with a view to the investigation and redress of grievances; that the two Pashas will at once proceed with the arrangement of the pending questions in Mount Lebanon agreeably to the adopted plan; that the additional troops required by them will be placed at their disposal with the least possible delay; and that troops will also be sent to maintain order in the other unsettled parts of Syria.

These measures following upon the success already obtained, and accompanied with the facilities and modifications promised by the Porte, will, it may be hoped, arrest the progress of insubordination, and terminate in the established tranquillity of the Mountain and the introduction of improvement to a certain degree throughout Syria.

If the Porte has been slow to pursue a right course of policy in this instance, its hesitation must be attributed to the fear of displeasing France and Austria, to its unwillingness to incur the responsibility of decided measures; to the opinion of Hahl and Asaad Pashas that the affairs of the Mountain should be postponed to the removal of dangers elsewhere; and finally to the expense and inconvenience of detaching reinforcements from other parts of the empire.

Difficulties may again spring up from the same sources, but at present they seem to be overcome. The confidence which I have felt in combating them and

which I have endeavoured, not wholly in vain, to impart to the Turkish Ministers, had its origin in my conviction, derived from your statements and other concurring testimony, of the shameful artifices employed to promote the objects of an unprincipled faction; the absence of any insurmountable objections to the adopted scheme of Government, and of the moderation and good faith displayed of late by the Turkish functionaries in this quarter; of the indispensable necessity of applying vigorous remedies to an evil which threatened to frustrate the benevolent exertions of Her Majesty's Government and to open a fresh, perhaps a fatal wound in one of the most vital parts of the Sultan's dominions.

I am, &c.
Signed, STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 6 in No. 35.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

(No. 16.)

Sir,

Buyukdery, August 15, 1844.

AN unexpected and to all appearance an accidental delay in the departure of the Turkish steamer appointed to proceed with Omer Effendi to Beyrout, enables me to make some addition to my preceding despatches. It is desirable that I should do so, because I learnt after I had written to you on the 13th instant that the Ottoman Council had revised its opinions and come finally to a decision in some respects different from that which was previously announced to me.

It is now determined that Omer Effendi goes only to Beyrout. It is also the intention of the Porte that no military coercion shall be employed for carrying the adopted arrangement into effect without a previous consultation between the Pashas and the Five Consuls.

Rifaat Pasha at the same time assures me that the instructions given to Omer Effendi are perfectly satisfactory and that he will be able to understand at first. The Pashas, he declares, are particularly directed to put an end at once to any crying injustice publicly complained of, and in general to attend with care to the points which I have recommended.

With respect to the troops, six hundred are embarked with Omer Effendi, a thousand will follow from here; and a whole regiment will be ordered from Sakin. As three battalions are already with you, the reinforcements just enumerated will probably suffice, though the Porte is prepared to send more, should the presence of a greater force be eventually required.

With the exception of the last decisive point, the Pashas are instructed to consult with you and those of your colleagues who partake in general your impressions and views. Their Excellencies are also, as I have every reason to believe, instructed to proceed without delay to the settlement of the pending questions in Mount Lebanon.

I am, &c.
Signed, STRATFORD CANNING

No. 36.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

No. 149.

Sir,

Foreign Office, September 13, 1844.

THE memorandum of which I inclose a copy for your Excellency's information, has been placed in my hands by Count Nesselrode, as containing the opinion which he has formed as to the manner in which it would be advisable for the Powers to deal with the Syrian question as it now stands.

Her Majesty's Government entirely concur in the views thus expressed by Count Nesselrode, which in fact are in a great measure perfectly coincident with those already stated in my despatch to Lord Cowley No. 187, of the 5th of

July, of which a copy was transmitted to your Excellency in my No. 104, of the 8th of July.

For the present the course to be pursued is to give the system established in 1842 for the Government of the Mountain as fair a trial as possible, and should it fail to produce the desired result, then to wait for the spontaneous movement of the Porte to devise and submit to the consideration of the Powers a new system of administration, which might appear to it to be calculated to remedy the defects which experience shall have proved to exist in the system of 1842.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) ABERDEEN

Inclosure in No. 36.

Memorandum by Count Neustirde on the Syrian Question.

Le Cabinet Anglais est d'avis qu'il faut commencer par mettre à une plus haute époque la question de la réintégration de la famille Chehab dans le Liban.

Cette opinion paraît fondée. Les rapports que nous recevons de nos agents ne nous permettent pas de croire que la réintégration de la famille Chehab est agitée, il semblerait qu'il faut en attribuer le motif en grande partie au mouvement que nous voyons dans les esprits de la population du Liban.

Pour le moment, les Cabinets devraient convenir entre eux de prescrire à leurs agents de se tenir tranquilles et de ne point travailler les esprits parmi les populations du Liban. Alors on pourrait juger si le mode d'administration actuellement établi est véritablement exécutable, ou s'il ne l'est pas.

Il faudrait laisser un temps suffisant pour faire cette épreuve.

Si après ce temps le mouvement de réintégration se maintient tel qu'il est.

Si l'agitation continuait, alors ce serait à la Porte elle-même qu'il faudrait laisser le soin de décider si la réintégration de la famille Chehab est nécessaire. En ce cas les Cabinets pourraient déclarer, "Que si la Porte jugeait nécessaire de rétablir la famille Chehab, ils n'y verraient pas d'inconvénient." Mais tout en donnant leur assentiment à la réintégration de cette famille, les Cabinets pourraient objecter contre le rétablissement de l'ancien Emir Bechar, attendu que ce Prince a été soupçonné de complicité avec M. H. A. Ce motif donne aux Cabinets le droit de conseiller à la Porte de ne pas rétablir l'ancien Emir.

Une opinion favorable avait été énoncée dans le temps à l'égard de l'Emir Enin. Si la Porte décide de rétablir l'ancien Emir, les Cabinets pourraient objecter que la réintégration de la famille Chehab est une modification du régime actuel serait réellement désirable dans l'intérêt du Liban.

En attendant qu'ils sur la marche indiquée ci-dessus les Cabinets préviennent la Porte, et resteraient conséquents eux-mêmes, ce qui ne serait guère le cas si dès à présent ils se hâtaient de renverser un système d'administration établi d'après leur propre conseil, et auquel ils n'ont pas encore donné le temps de se consolider.

No. 37

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 23)

(No. 192)

My Lord.

Buyukdery, September 1, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith for your Lordship's information, a translated copy of a letter addressed by the Maronite Patriarch to his agent here, who communicated it to me. I have reason to presume that this letter was the consequence of an inquiry addressed to the Patriarch by his agent, at the instigation of the Austrian Internuncio, with the view of obtaining from his Holiness a statement in contradiction to the assurances which he had given to Colonel Rose on the subject. As Mr. Rose had his private interviews at Paris in this respect the intrigue, for such it would seem to be, has failed; but the Patriarch has made up for the disappointment by an ample declaration in favour of the Shehabs, to whom, as it appears from the language which he held to Mr. Alison, he is only devoted from motives of private convenience and long habits of official intercourse, without reference to any political considerations.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure in No. 37

The Maronite Patriarch of Mount Lebanon to his Agent at Constantinople, Elias Hach.

July 18, 1844.

(Translation.)

IN your letter of the 25th of June you state that the matter of the Shehabs' return to Government is the subject of the Representatives' deliberations at present, since the Sublime Porte has understood that the return of that family is necessary to the repose of the Mountain; that although the Representatives of England, Austria, and France are consequently deliberating on this step, the English Ambassador has said that we object to the return of the Shehabs; and in confirmation of this, that Colonel Rose has a paper which proves it, and states that Bishop Nicolas has set this matter afloat without our consent and contrary to the desire of the people, and accordingly you inquire into the truth of this matter, and observe that since the formation of this affair is approaching, and its result depends upon our answer, I forward to the correspondence we have sent you, and the fact that we formerly sent Bishop Nicolas as our agent to the Sublime Porte, it is clear that we are entirely desirous that either the Emir Bechar or his son Enin should return to the Government, and in fine you say that we are to write another letter that the matter may be clearly shown to the Ambassadors, and that it may be understood that the Shehabs are necessary for the government of the Mountain, and that we should declare it to be as well our desire as that of all the inhabitants of the Mountain, and to state that Bishop Nicolas was our agent and that of the people.

Taking into consideration the contents of your letter as stated above, we wonder much that it should have been said of us that we are not desirous of the return of the Shehabs to power; we have never given cause for such a thing to be said, and know nothing about it, and how can it be possible that we should either say or write such a thing contrary to the letters we formerly sent you? Can we contradict ourselves, and after writing one thing at one time can we write another at another? With God's help, no such thing has ever happened, nor will ever. But our opinion has not changed, and remains firm as before. Besides we have not been questioned on this either by Colonel Rose or anybody, because our opinion and desire, which we communicated to you before, is known to everybody, and not a mark of the pen has been sent you disavowing it. And how should we disavow it or disapprove the return of the Shehabs to power, particularly the Emir Bechar or his son Enin? Since we know for certain that without their presence there will be no tranquillity here, especially as we see that the whole population of the Mountain are desirous of their return, knowing for certain that without their return they will enjoy no

repose; but that everything should return to its former state. After so detailed a declaration how is it possible that we should be accused of making contradictory statements?

Thus stands the matter of the return of the Shehabs to Government. As to the matter of Bishop Nicolas's agency on our part and that of the inhabitants, in the end of the month of May last a letter came to us from Colonel Rose, the British Consul, the contents of which were that an instruction had come from Lord Aberdeen stating that Bishop Nicolas Murad had presented an unsigned and unsealed petition from the people and a letter from himself, the contents of one of which were complaints against the Turkish Government of the Mountain, and that their repose and confidence were so utterly destroyed that a man could not go an hour's journey without arms and companions; and of the other most weighty complaints against the Turkish Government, and that the Bishop is the agent of the inhabitants of the Mountain; that when the Bishop was desirous of coming to London, Lord Aberdeen wrote to him not to come, and that there was now no hope of the Shehabs returning to power. Colonel Rose therefore officially inquired of us whether we authorised the Bishop to be our agent in the presentation of such papers, and whether he is really the agent of the people? that he might answer the Minister's question. We, on reading Colonel Rose's letter, were thrown into deep affliction, that on one side it was disagreeable to us not to confirm the Bishop's papers, because his actions on behalf of the people are productive of good; and on the other, we did not make him our agent to present those papers, on that account it was impossible for us to make any answer but the true one; especially, as in matters like the present, which are the subject of consideration of the foreign Governments, harm may very probably result to us. On these accounts we answered according to the true state of the case, that the said Bishop was not our agent in the presentation of the petition and letter; but as regards his being the agent of the inhabitants of the Mountain, we know nothing about it, and it is really so, because we have long since ceased to mix in these matters; this is the true state of the case.

But as you desire us to write again declaring our earnest desire that the Shehabs should return to power, since there is now no longer any fear, the object of the Porte being the peace and tranquillity of the Mountain; we formerly sent you such letters, and instead of any advantage being obtained thereby, great injury resulted to us from it; so that we are still afraid, and in particular, looking to the present state of affairs, that circumstances remain unchanged. Consider what you wrote us on the 21st Huziran, 1842, from the Porte, desiring us to publish your letter to the people, that they should declare whom they wished to be Governor of the Mountain; and that our mind should be at rest on this, and that we should not be afraid of anything; and we accordingly published the letter, and every one fearlessly desired the return of the Shehabs, and we never doubted that that desire would be approved and executed, but instead of that, their return to Government was prevented, and the Porte was displeased with us; so that letters came to us from Bishop Nicolas, desiring us to take great care and look well to ourselves; and you know well how much malice Mustapha Pasha showed us for this, and how the soldiers took possession of our premises and kept us like prisoners. Since then we have never mixed in these matters, either to approve or disapprove. If, as you now write, there is no longer anything to fear, and the termination of this affair depends upon our opinion, our former letters are sufficient; and there is no reason why we should rewrite the same thing, as this paper will show what our opinion is and prove our former letters. But if the matter is as we imagine, especially as a proclamation has lately been issued from Assad Pasha threatening the partisans of the Shehabs, instead of any advantage resulting from this letter, the trouble and injury we were before subject to may be renewed, and we cannot bear more than we have borne on this account, especially as infirmity and old age have taken possession of our body; we hope that on these grounds our excuses will be deemed acceptable, and no one will blame us for abstaining from mixing in these affairs, in order to take care of ourselves.

What we have now written must be sufficient, because our desire and opinion is herein declared; if their Excellencies the Representatives should have any doubt regarding the present letter, and any one of them should question us on these matters, our answer will be in the same tenor; but without being questioned we cannot write to any one, as we fear the results.

No. 38.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 194.)

My Lord,

Beyruty, September 1, 1844.

A FEW days ago the old ex-Emir Beshir sent a confidential agent to request that I would consent to his return to Syria, that I would obtain his reinstatement in the administration of that country, and if his wishes could not be realized in either of these respects, that I would apply to the Porte on his behalf, and endeavour to obtain a pecuniary allowance which had become necessary for his support.

I replied that the two former requests were neither of them of a nature to be entertained by me, the present state of affairs in Syria, and with respect to the latter, that I could only refer it to your Lordship, and wait for instructions.

The Emir's agent dwelt in particular on two points, the readiness of his master to devote himself exclusively to the interests of England, and the reduced state of his circumstances. I expressed some surprise at hearing of the Emir's poverty, having always understood that he had come to Constantinople with the resources of an ample fortune, and that he had recently given evidence of his wealth by offering considerable sums to the leading Ministers of the Porte, and others to whose influence he looked for the recovery of his power.

It is for your Lordship to decide how far it may be advisable for me to address the Porte on behalf of the Emir, but the effect of my exertions in favour of Beshir have been too ineffectual to admit of my undertaking the cause of his relation, unless directed to do so by your Lordship.

I have, &c.

(Signed,) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 39.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received September 23.)

(No. 195.)

My Lord,

Beyruty, September 3, 1844.

I HAVE no information from Syria of the proceedings of the Captain Pasha and the Pasha of Sidon since the departure of Omer Effendi for Beyrout.

I am aware that a further step has been taken either by the French Ambassador or by the Austrian Intendant in that country, the object to which they had previously devoted so much attention and zeal. The former admitted that he had received instructions directing him for the present to wait in silence the course of events in Mount Lebanon.

A despatch which I have just received from Her Majesty's Consul at Damascus informs me that the restoration of tranquillity in the district of the Bekaa had been followed by a satisfactory adjustment of the Lebanon disputes. I inclose herewith an extract of Mr. Wood's despatch.

Mr. Alison's return to the Embassy has enabled me to complete the information which I had derived from his correspondence of the real state of affairs in Mount Lebanon. I have now the honour to advise his report on the score of facts exhibited by Archbishop Murad. For your Lordship's convenience his observations have been so written out as to place them on each point opposite to the corresponding allegation. The general result, as your Lordship will observe, is a corroboration of the statements transmitted by Colonel Rose.

I am further assured by Mr. Alison that there is nothing impracticable in the arrangements adopted by common consent in 1842, and that the clamours for the reinstatement of the Shehabs are confined to a small number composed of their partisans and the Maronite clergy. It appears, on the other account, that the Porte seriously intends to make a sufficient sacrifice for the settlement of the indemnities, and that the reinforcement of regular troops

Mr. Alison's Report in reply to Archbishop Mura'd's "Note de faits"

Note de faits arrivée après la nomination, dans le Mont Liban, de deux Kaimacams, l'un Maronite et l'autre Druse, dans l'année 1842, et installés le 1er Janvier, 1843.

1. Quant à l'anarchie, elle règne librement dans le Mont Liban, et elle est la source des revenus du Pacha et de ses subordonnés.

2. Les homicides

3. Les pillages continuent

4. Un homme seul ne peut pas se mettre en voyage pour aller à la distance d'une heure sans être accompagné de quelques autres hommes armés.

Memorandum on Archbishop Mura'd's "Note de faits."

1. The general peace and security which have de facto reigned in the Lebanon during the last two years, are incompatible with the idea of "une anarchie qui règne librement;" and the results of a laborious and persevering industry observable throughout the country, could not have been obtained under such a state of things.

An accusation of corruption was made against Assad Pasha, but was not substantiated.

2. There is no doubt that murders have been committed both among the Christians and Druses respectively, and that the want of an efficient executive power has rendered claims for redress nugatory where they have been made. The fault is to be attributed entirely to the Turkish Government, who so unaccountably withdrew the force which Lord Aberdeen judged so necessary to maintain a due degree of order among a semi-barbarous people. Assad Pasha himself lamented and condemned this policy.

3. I could not ascertain any instances on which such an assertion could be founded.

4. I do not hesitate in declaring this to be a most hazardous and injurious statement. In my passage through the Druso-Christian district of El-Shoof, where mutual animosity is stated to be rife, I met and conversed with several persons of both sects, unarmed and singly, with two or three horses, journeying there. I saw no indications of the want of tranquillity or of any armed force either at home and abroad, and I observed no organized body of men. Europeans, and the inhabitants of the larger cities in Syria, travel through the country with the greatest security unarméd. Yet on the other hand there would be nothing remarkable in the fact of the people going armed; a practice very general in Turkey, and strikingly so in Asia Minor, when viewed as enjoying more tranquillity than other provinces.

5. On rencontre souvent des morts assassinés dans les chemins même à un quart-d'heure, à une demi-heure, et à une heure de distance de Beyrouth. On réclamait auprès des Kaimacams et ils répondaient qu'ils n'y pouvaient rien; on allait chez le Pacha pour obtenir justice, et il répondait "Cela ne fait rien."

6. Les familles Gabaisché et de Bahdah sont en continuelles querelles et prêtes à se tuer l'une l'autre. Déjà il a péri quatre personnes de la famille Gabaisché, et une de la famille Bahdah; elles sont toujours armées, et prêtes à se détruire. Les populations entre elles souffrent beaucoup de ces violences. Elles ont réclamé auprès du Kaimacam pour qu'il pût remettre la paix et la tranquillité, et lui a encore répondu qu'il ne pouvait rien faire, parce que le Pacha ne veut pas que l'on rétablisse la concorde dans le Mont Liban.

7. Après les Conventions précédentes, datées de 1841, le Liban devait payer à la Porte mille deux cents bourses comme tribut, et deux mille trois cents bourses au Gouvernement du Mont Liban, à tous les employés, aux tribunaux, &c. Le Pacha s'est emparé de toutes ces sommes par ordre de la Porte, et avec ce produit il a payé les Kaimacams afin qu'ils soient les instruments de ses ordres et de ses volontés.

8. Chaque fois qu'ils veulent faire leur devoir il leur montre de la défiance et les menace d'une destitution.

9. Le Pacha s'est encore emparé des rentes communales qui servaient pour le bien public, obligeant le Kaimacam Maronite à payer pour les remplacer 180,000 piastres. Tout cela est contraire au Traité de 1841.

10. Parmi les Druses eux-mêmes il y a aussi de l'anarchie, ils se sont entre-tués dernièrement dans un village et il en est mort trois, et beaucoup sont blessés. Les paysans qui travaillent à la terre sont obligés d'avoir le fusil à côté de la charrue.

5. See No 2

6. This refers to occurrences which took place before the appointment of the two Kaimacams: a Hakeem is however said to have killed one of the Dahdahs about a year ago, and it is not to be wondered at that the Kaimacam, unsupported as he was then by the Porte, should have been unable to suppress these petty quarrels.

7. The Porte, after the arrangement of 1842, made some alteration with regard to the payment of employés, &c. for the purpose of securing a degree of patronage which it thought necessary for its own influence. The question is however now subsiding to the settlement proposed by Her Majesty's Ambassador at Constantinople. The Emir Haider had nothing to complain of on this score.

8. This statement is unfounded. The Emir Haider and Assad Pasha are on the contrary on terms of a very good understanding, and they both equally deplore the measure which deprived them until now of the means of asserting any authority.

9. I could not ascertain with any positiveness what is meant by "rentes communales." If a "Bekalerk," the Porte has a right to it. Both the Emirs it would appear had appropriated this revenue to private use.

10. This statement is generally incorrect. It may have reference to squabbles and contentions which arise but to be forgotten among the Mountaineers, unless when attended with bloodshed. It is impossible to get at the details of such occurrences, although the one alluded to was reported at the time by Colonel Rose.

During my passage through the country, the Maronites and Druses in the district of El-Shoof were employed together in gathering in the crops without any display of arms.

11. Cadr Bey commandant les troupes à Deyr-el-Kamar, et les derniers jours de Décembre, 1843, il suscite d'abord une querelle entre les Druses et les Chrétiens, et ensuite il ordonne que l'on pillât et que l'on saccageât les Chrétiens. Il y eut des morts et beaucoup de blessés.

12. Au nombre des conditions conclues à Constantinople le 7 Décembre, 1842, il était stipulé que l'on retirerait tous les Albanois de la Syrie, et cela n'a pas été exécuté. Tous les jours on en voit en Syrie et particulièrement à Beyrouth. Leur chef s'appelle Hubas, et à Beyrouth il a autant d'influence que le Pacha. Le 8 Février les Albanois sont entrés dans le Mont Liban avec les autres troupes Turques, et certainement ils auront commis d'autres excès.

13. Le Pacha de Beyrouth a pris par le moyen du Kaimacm, dans la Province de Kesrouan, 60 000 piastres avant de faire exécuter l'ordre de Constantinople qui assurait que cette province ne payerait pas d'impôts pendant trois ans, en dédommagement de ce qu'il avait souffert en 1840

14. Il en est résulté qu'à l'occasion de ce paiement, plusieurs individus de la famille Caseno se sont mis en division et en désaccord. Une partie de cette famille avec ses chefs a fait une insurrection et exhorté le peuple à se réunir pour se révolter contre le Katimaram et le Pacha, et il n'y a pas eu peu de dommages pour cette province. Chaque membre de cette famille avait un parti différent, et le Pacha se fâchoit de cette division.

15. Dernièrement à Constantinople avec le consentement des Ambassadeurs, la Porte en opposition au Traité de 1842, a nommé un chef Turc pour commander à Deir-el Kamar et aux environs.

16. Et ce commandant doit nommer dans chaque village un chef Druse et un chef Chrétien. Ainsi pour les villages s'il y en a 30 ou 40, cela fait 60 ou 80 chefs. Cette mesure ne peut que compléter la ruine du Liban.

17 En conséquence la protection de l'Europe a causé au Mont Liban la haine acharnée des Turcs, une raine telle qu'il faudra plus que cent ans

11. This was a quarrel originating in some very trivial circumstances. Cadri Bey had nothing to do with it, and there was no plunder committed on the part of the Druses, who were as one to twelve in numbers. Colonel Rose, who was I believe on the spot, reported on this occurrence.

12. The Albanians had been almost all withdrawn in the beginning, but were employed again on the removal of the regular forces. Abbas, their chieftain, enjoyed the general reputation of being a just, severe, but arrogant man. His haughty conduct towards the Turkish authorities was a chief cause of his removal. The excesses apprehended by Archbishop Murad have not occurred: and the present chieftain, who was employed at the suggestion of the Embassy in 1840, deservedly enjoys the respect and good-will of all parties.

13. I could not ascertain that there are any grounds for this statement, although if it be correct the money must have been levied on the people at large, and consequently generally known.

14. The Casenos are reported to be a most turbulent family. Some of them repaid the good offices of the Kaimacam by endeavouring to overthrow him, but I could not ascertain that any insurrection had taken place, or that the province had suffered by their misconduct.

15. The temporary appointment of a military commander at Deir-el-Kamar was found to be indispensable for the tranquility of that place. This measure has had the effect of bringing back many Christian families, who had withdrawn from it previous to 1842. The principal Maronite Sheiks of that village expressed themselves to me in high terms of Mustapha Bey.

16. I could not ascertain any grounds whatever for such a statement.

17. This is a most factious and un-
 -derful assertion. The protection of
 Europe had in the first place the effect
 of preventing the return of a ruler

pour recouvrer la situation de 1839, la perte de la famille Shehab, unique protection du Mont Liban, la destruction des privilèges séculiers, le malheur d'être soumis à beaucoup de chefs ennemis les uns des autres.

Actuellement votre Excellence verra si après l'exposé de ces faits qui ne sont qu'une faible partie des excès commis, la tranquillité règne au Liban et saura sur quelles raisons les Puissances pourront s'appuyer pour faire rendre au Liban une situation qu'il regrette avec tant de douleur.

who respected neither the life and property of his subjects nor the authority of his sovereign; in the second place, that of placing it on a footing infinitely superior to that of the other Christian subjects of the empire, both in point of privileges, taxation and security from external wrong and injury.

Buyukdere, September 3, 1844.

(Signed) C. ALISON.

No. 40

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No 155)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 5, 1844

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 194, of the 1st of September, respecting an application which had been made to you on the part of the old Emir Beshir (Shehab), and I have to acquaint you in reply, that while Her Majesty's Government have seen no reason to depart from their opinion that the return of that person to Syria, and still more his reinstatement in the Government of the Lebanon, would be in the highest degree objectionable, they do not feel themselves called upon, especially under the circumstances alluded to by your Excellency of his having sought by bribery to regain his ancient power, to advocate any pecuniary claims which he may think fit to prefer to the Porte.

1. 1117, 8c.

(Signed) ABERDEEN

No. 41.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 160.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 7, 1844.

IN compliance with the wish expressed by your Excellency in the latter part of your despatch No. 175, of the 16th of August, to be made acquainted with the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the two points submitted to you by Colonel Rose in his despatch No. 40, of the 2nd of August, I have to inform your Excellency that the view which you have taken of those points, as expressed in your despatch to Colonel Rose, No. 14, of the 13th of August, appears to Her Majesty's Government to be generally correct.

Her Majesty's Government however do not clearly understand to what extent the authorities of the Porte proposed to defer to the opinions of the Consuls of the Five Powers, which it appears they intended to ascertain before resorting to measures of coercion in support of the plan of administration for the Lebanon which has been determined upon. Considering the difference which has unfortunately manifested itself between those Powers with regard to the practicability of the plan in question, it could scarcely be expected that when the question of adopting forcible measures to subdue the opposition of persons adverse to that plan should be propounded to the Representatives of the Powers, any unanimous expression of opinion on their part would be the result: while a declared difference of opinion would not only encourage resistance, but would also paralyze the action of the authorities of the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government desire that the new administration of affairs in the Lebanon should be established without compromising public tranquility, and they consider it on every account expedient that all ostensible measures to that end should emanate from and be carried out by the Turkish authorities alone. Unless therefore the intrigues of foreign agents, in opposition to the legitimate influence of the Porte, should require Her Majesty's servants to come forward in support of that influence, or unless the Turkish authorities should voluntarily seek counsel from Her Majesty's Consul-General, Her Majesty's Government would prefer that British Agents in Syria should abstain as much as possible from active interference; and even if required to interfere on either of the grounds above stated, that they should limit their action to counselling the authorities of the Porte who faithfully arrange out the instructions of the Divan, to exercise in so doing the utmost forbearance and management consistent with the proper discharge of their duty.

But with reference to the specific questions suggested by Colonel Rose, Her Majesty's Government are clearly of opinion that if either the Maronites or the Druses should resist the introduction into their respective districts of the form of Government already determined upon, the Turkish Government, after exhausting all reasonable means of persuasion and conciliation, would act rightly in compelling obedience to their authority, and in punishing, if necessary, the refractory party. Again, if either party should refuse to nominate Vakeels, Her Majesty's Government conceive that the Porte would be fully borne out in itself appointing others to discharge the duties of that office.

I have not written to George Russell on the subject adverted to in your despatch, as I conceive it more convenient to leave the matter in your Excellency's hands. I am, &c.

Signed) **ABERDEEN**

22 32

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 161.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 7, 1844.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that I have received from Colonel Ross a copy of his despatch to you, No. 46 of the 5th of September, giving an account of what he believed to be the termination of the discussions between the Turkish authorities and the Druse and Christian deputies by the acceptance of the arrangements proposed on the part of the Porte.

Her Majesty's Government have received this intelligence with much satisfaction, and I have had great pleasure in conveying to Colonel Rose my entire approval of the prudence and good management by which he appears to have so powerfully contributed to bring about this desirable result.

(Signed) J. M. ABERDEEN.

No 43

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 10.)

(No. 202)

My Lord,

Buyukdere, September 17, 1844

ON his return from Syria Mr. Alison committed to paper not only his remarks on the statement presented to your Lordship by Archbishop Meneh, but also his opinion as to the real wants and political feelings of the several classes in Mount Lebanon. I have already transmitted the former to your Lordship, and I have now the honour to forward herewith a memorandum containing the latter, which more particularly derives its value from the opportunities of local inquiry and personal observation recently enjoyed by Mr. Alison.

I have, &c,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 43

Memorandum by Mr. Alcorn

MOUNT Lebanon during my visit was at a point most propitious to the views of a party who sought the success of their schemes amidst scenes of strife and rebellion. The Maronite district of Besharré had taken up arms to resist the payment of the taxes, and the Christians and Druses had united to expel the Turkish troops from the property claimed by them in the Bekaa. An appearance of unanimity on the part of the European Powers contributed for a time to foment this state of things; for the Patriarch declared having received intelligence that the British Government had at length seen the expediency of restoring the old Emir Beshir to the seat of power.

It will appear strange that the Government under such circumstances should have succeeded in maintaining the general tranquillity and eventually restoring order without any effective means of coercion at its disposal; but a perfect knowledge of the character of the people, added to measures of firmness and forbearance, effected the object. In the department of Lebanon in conjunction with Colonel Rose at Beyrout, with several of the leading Maronite Sheiks, it was endeavoured to impress upon them the necessity of restoring order and submission throughout the country, before the measures to be adopted by Assad and Halil Pashas for redressing the grievances they complained of could be carried into execution. As a further means of producing this result a bouyrouldi forbidding the revival of the Shehab claims to the Government was sent into the factious villages by a single unattended cavas, while the presence of Assad Pasha's hanker, on the other hand, at the seat of rebellion in Besharré had the double effect of bringing the turbulent Sheiks to submission as well as to an admission of their culpability, by the payment of part of the taxes which they had so unjustly disputed.

[illegible]

It may be argued from this, as it is considered by the ordinary party that it would be impossible to arrive at the truth by the written statements of a single man, that the six parties were sworn to and bound to reveal all the most confidential facts. It can be seen, however, from the fact that the six parties did not at any time write out a statement of the contents of the agreement, that the parties were not bound to reveal all the confidential facts.

On the other hand, the two Khans of the country was asked of the ~~present~~ ~~two~~ and disorder prevailed. The most important result of this policy, however, was that it kept a substantial mass of the people from the road that Syria was restored to the possession of the Sultan. Whatever policy may have directed the Councils of the Porte, it is certain that the new system of administration met with no support at all. The Khans were installed, while the executive power requisite to govern and repress was entirely withheld from them. A free scope was thus afforded to

the passions of two factious and turbulent sects, still smarting under the infliction of mutual wrongs. Yet although it manifested itself by individual acts of cruelty and revenge committed with impunity among the respective sects, no indication of a general discontent or of the animosity which is stated to exist between the Christians and the Druses, disturbed the general tranquillity. While the Christian Sheiks of the Kesrouan endeavoured in vain to excite disorder and strife among the population, the Christian inhabitants in the mixed districts have maintained an exemplary conduct under the administration of their Druse landlords. Neither the abeyance of the law nor the incessant exertions of the Shehab party to regain their ascendancy have been able to disturb the good understanding which is so essential to the relations between tenant and landlord. The real interest of the labouring classes has interposed too strong a barrier to such unprofitable schemes; and no better proof can be afforded of this than the fact that neither industry nor agriculture has met with any check throughout the whole country from the causes above alluded to, and that while the people listened unmoved to the appeal of their factious Sheiks, both the Christians and the Druses united together to expose their lives in the Bekaa for the protection of property to which their title even was contested and under investigation.

The real fact is, that the people are too poor, ignorant, and laborious to care even who rules over them, so long as they are protected against the rapacity of their own Sheiks. Wherever questioned by me on the subject they either betrayed an entire ignorance of the question agitated concerning the Lebanon, or expressed themselves perfectly indifferent as to the result so long as it did not affect them. The question itself, from any conception which I was enabled to form of it, appears to me to be a matter resting exclusively among the body of Sheiks dismembered on the expulsion of the old Emir Beshir. Those who were raised by him upon the wreck of others wish as ardently for his return as the latter dread it. The Druse Sheiks connected with this faction are comparatively few. A consciousness of power enables them, generally speaking, to view the question and its eventual result with calm indifference. The less influential Sheiks of both sects are swayed alternately by each with a facility which renders their concurrence of no further interest to the parties than to mislead those who at a distance are unable to appreciate the value of it. They all look down upon the labourer with the utmost contempt: he is a serf in the mouth of the one and an infidel to that of the other. The feeling of power is so closely allied to despotism and arrogance in the minds of this people, that I have heard a Maronite ruler in a district purely Christian, a man too of characteristic mildness and forbearance, apply the epithet of Ghiaour or infidel to his own people, in talking calmly of their condition in the presence of the principal Sheiks of the country.

During the conversations I have held with the leading Maronite Sheiks in the Lebanon I never heard any better reason advanced for the return of the Shehabs by those who espouse their cause than that they desired it. The Patriarch, like all the rest, is entirely guided by his own interest. Once strongly opposed to the return of the proscribed family he declares himself to be now as desirous for its restoration, although extreme caution prevents him from lending himself openly to the intrigues set on foot for that purpose. I alluded to the disinclination evinced by the Porte on this subject, and asked him whether the nomination of a Christian Prince from another family to rule over both Druses and Christians would appear to him calculated to meet the wishes of his people. His Eminence frankly expressed himself opposed to any such scheme, and stated that the present system should have its best rules in the event of the return of the old Emir or his son being deemed impracticable. In the course of a long conversation it struck me that he looked forward in the return of the old Emir to a greater degree of spiritual control over the Christians, and that the Druses would be permitted to keep pace with those of the Government, is a question difficult to foresee.

It cannot be shown that there is any defect in the present form of administration beyond the want of an executive power sufficient to enforce respect to the laws in the relations of individuals towards each other, and to keep in check the machinations of a faction who are ready to plunge the country into disorder to promote their own ends. This latter object is considered of so much import-

ance that the Maronite Kamacani stated to me that he would engage to keep his people in strict submission to the law if he could rely upon obtaining sufficient guarantee against the exertions of the faction above alluded to.

The redress of individual grievances arising out of the violent measures resorted to by the Druses to avenge the usurpation of their property by the old Emir Beshir, forms a question independent of that of the administration, but which has been much made use of in promoting dissension and intrigue. The more sensible portion of the Shehab faction would I am persuaded be content to end their labours with the permanent settlement of the country. This once effected, the machinery of Government for maintaining a better order of things in future, will require the attention of those whose experience and rectitude entitle them to respect: but it is generally admitted that the most simple form would be the best.

One evil to be avoided hereafter is the frequency with which the Representatives of foreign Powers are called upon to interfere in the most trifling differences between the people and the Government. In the absence of an efficient executive power, such an interference has been in many respects both beneficial and humane, while in others the low cunning and bad faith of the parties have often led to intricacies and misunderstandings as mischievous as they are ridiculous. The same terms of exclusive devotion have been so frequently applied in relation to each of the European Governments that the absurdity has at last passed into a proverb. Besides this the means of intrigue and influence which a practice carries with it might become a source of danger to the country in the hands of unscrupulous men; and the system moreover has the effect of bringing the Supreme Government into disrepute.

The question of any form of Government for the Lebanon must naturally be taken into consideration together with the views of the Porte; the main points, that is, ancient privileges and immunities, freedom of religious exercise, liberty of internal administration, and a fixed and equitable taxation, being always carefully guarded. Amidst the factious cry of wrongs and injuries, no complaints have arisen on these heads which have not turned out to be both wicked and unjustifiable. The inhabitants indeed of Mount Lebanon have much to congratulate themselves upon when their present condition is viewed in contrast with their former one, and also with the present state of other Christian communities scattered over the Ottoman Empire. The oppression and guilt which reigned there since the fall of the Ottoman Empire, have been succeeded by a state of guaranteed freedom, immunity and prosperity duly appreciated by all those who prefer the substantial benefits which has attended them to the impracticable objects held out by factious and designing men. If the culpable neglect of the Porte in suspending the course of justice has given scope to the commission of individual acts of atrocity and cruelty, this surely cannot be adduced in evidence of the impracticability of a form of Government to which, although originating in the most practical and enlightened minds, intrigue and false policy have never allowed a fair trial; and yet under which so many real advantages are enjoyed. Supposing it however possible permanently to overcome the repugnance of the Druses to the establishment in the Lebanon of a single Christian ruler, independent of the arbitrary subjection in which they held the old Emir, it would always remain a question whether the Government to maintain him in any degree of authority. As the Porte has explicitly avowed itself opposed to such a measure, the question resolves itself simply into whether it would be prudent or just for the sake of a mere experiment, to plunge the country again into a state of anarchy and bloodshed, and thus create the only alternative of wresting the country from the possession of the Porte, and exposing all the provinces beyond it to the certain danger of civil strife and eventual dismemberment.

Buyukdery, September 8, 1844.

(Signed) C. ALISON

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 10)

(No. 203.)

My Lord,

Buyukdery, September 17, 1844.

BY the return of Omer Effendi from Beyrout, I received from Colonel Rose the gratifying intelligence that the deputies of the Maronites and Druses had accepted the terms of arrangement communicated to them by the Captain Pasha and the Pasha of Sidon in the name of the Porte, and that the long-pending question of Mount Lebanon might be considered as brought to a satisfactory termination. Inclosed herewith is a copy of Colonel Rose's despatch announcing this fortunate result. I observe with particular satisfaction that the Porte has redeemed its pledge, that the generosity of its conduct has removed the chief burthen of the indemnities, that in addition to the confirmation of all previous securities and concessions, the liberty of emigration has been granted to the Maronites in the mixed districts, and that the tranquillity of the country has been secured by the presence of an imposing force without the slightest effusion of blood.

The Ottoman Ministers are much pleased with the solution of the difficulty, and they have conveyed to me their acknowledgments for the share which Her Majesty's Government and its representatives both here and in Syria have taken in bringing it about.

In answer to an inquiry from Rifaat Pasha I have advised authority and complete execution of the promises made at Beyrout, especially as regards the payment of the indemnities, and that large proportion of their amount which the Porte has undertaken to supply.

I abstain for the present from entering more largely into this part of the question. It appears to me that while the Porte continues to pursue so reasonable a course, the most judicious course of Government will be best on my part. I shall nevertheless endeavour to keep its proceedings in view, and I shall not hesitate on every proper occasion to offer those suggestions which I may think most conducive to the peace and welfare of Mount Lebanon.

In the mean time it is an additional cause of satisfaction to find that the Austrian and French Embassies have adopted on this subject a language and, as far as I know, a conduct in harmony with the sentiments of Great Britain and the British Government. The French Consul at Beyrout appears to have abstained from seeking to occasion any fresh embarrassment; and the Austrian Consul is stated to have even dissuaded the Christian deputies from declining to submit to the Sultan's pleasure. Count Stürmer has shown me the reports of M. d'Adelbourg, and they agree in all their principal features with those of Her Majesty's Consul-General. M. de Bourqueney has equally expressed to me, and also to Rifaat Pasha, his cheerful acquiescence in the present state of things, though he disclaimed in a significant manner his reliance on its stability.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 44

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 46.)

Sir,

Beyrout, September 5, 1844.

I HAVE the greatest satisfaction in announcing to your Excellency the successful termination of the question of Mount Lebanon.

On the 3rd instant the Christian deputies of the mixed provinces, several Christian Emirs and notables of Mount Lebanon, and the Druse chiefs, assembled in Beyrout to hear the orders of the Sublime Porte respecting the indemnities and the government of the mixed provinces.

The Captain Pasha and Assaad Pasha presided over the Divan, to which the Christians were first introduced.

The Pashas then informed the Christian deputies that the Sublime Porte in its benevolence and compassion for the state of the Christians, had determined to give from its own treasury the sum of ten thousand purses towards paying the indemnities, and that the Druses would pay the remaining part—three thousand purses.

The Pashas proceeded to announce to the Assembly the orders of the Porte respecting the government of the mixed districts, that it was to be on the geographical system, the Christian Kaimacam governing the Druses in the Christian Kaimacamship, and the Druse Kaimacam governing the Christians in the Druse Kaimacamship.

The Pashas then detailed the guarantees which are so well known to your Excellency.

The deputies thanked emphatically the Pashas for the payment of the indemnities, and the signal generosity of their illustrious Sovereign; but as regarded the question of government, Bishop Tubia, on the part of the deputies, requested a short delay, "mehli," which was granted them till the next day.

The Divan having met on the 3rd instant, the Pashas informed the Christian deputies that they had full liberty to give utterance to their wishes respecting the matter of their government.

The deputies then stated their unwillingness to be governed by the Druses, and a discussion, in which the Pashas showed the utmost moderation and forbearance, took place on that point between the authorities and the deputies.

These persons portrayed in strong language the hardship of the Christians being governed by the Druses after the cruel persecutions which they had suffered during the civil war.

Assaad Pasha replied that the Christians had also pillaged and killed the Druses.

The Pashas then with great kindness detailed the guarantees, pointed out the sufficiency of that of the Vakeels, whose especial duty it was to watch over the interests of the Christians and to report and denounce any invasion of their rights on the part of their Druse rulers.

As the Pasha asserted the Christian deputies with much feeling, that not only should all the guarantees in favour of the Christians be carried into effect in the fullest and most liberal manner, but that the Pasha of Sidon would even consider the Christians in the mixed population as enjoying his special protection, that he would never lose sight of them; and, added this Pasha, who on account of his age, humanity, and liberal feeling, is justly popular with the Christians, "I shall always treat you as the 'enfants chéris' of my Sovereign."

Four times were the Christians invited by the Pashas to declare all their wishes and desires.

The deputies then said that they would obey, but that it would be like taking poison; and they repeated that they would obey and accept the new form of government like dutiful subjects, but that it was against their wishes so to do.

The Captain Pasha replied that as they said that they would obey because they were dutiful subjects, but that it was against their wishes to do so, and as his illustrious Sovereign wished that all his subjects should be happy, he knew of no other remedy for the difficulty, than that such of the Christians who did not choose to remain under Druse rule should emigrate.

On this all the deputies prostrated themselves, without throwing themselves on the ground, and taking off their turbans with both hands, warmly thanked the Captain Pasha for this gracious permission, declaring their entire acceptance of the orders for the new form of Government.

Assaad Pasha said to one of the deputies who had distinguished himself in the discussion, "Remember, you who have rejected all the ample protection and complete guarantees promised to you, all the assurances of paternal care and interest made to you in the name of your Emperor, remember, that you have now accepted that for which your relations and those who are dear to you may call malediction on you; you have rejected all the enactments to give you perfect security; you prefer to leave the house and soil of your fathers."

A person thus addressed again declared his cheerful acceptance of emigration.

The Christians then retired after two hours' sitting.

I think it right to draw your Excellency's attention to the fact that although so often called on by the Pashas to give utterance to their wishes and desires, the deputies never breathed a word in favour of a Shehab Governor, nor even alluded to that family in the remotest way.

The Druses were informed by the two Pashas of the act of munificence of their Sovereign in aid of them, I mean the gift of ten thousand purses towards the payment of the indemnities which they owe to the Christians. One chief of the Yesseks who has been mentioned, they pointed to the extreme poverty of the Druses, and hoped that mercy would be shown to them as regarded the payment of the 3000 purses which they had to pay.

The Druses declared their obedience to the orders respecting the indemnities, as well as the Government. But some of them expressed a hope that Deir-el-Kamar should remain under the government of the Druses, inasmuch as it was the capital of the Druse country and of a Druse mookata, that of the Abuneked.

Assand Pasha replied very properly, that no mention should be made of such a wish nor of such a name, as an Abuneked had shed Christian blood in the most inhuman way in Deir-el-Kamar.

I have desired the Druse chiefs only to mention the indemnities in terms of extreme and heartfelt gratitude for the excessive generosity of their Sovereign, to pay the 3000 purses as soon as they can, and not to offer the slightest objection to the new form of Government for Deir-el-Kamar.

The conduct of the Austrian and French Agents was one of the causes which conducted to the present favourable state of affairs.

M. d'Adelbourg informs me that previously to the meeting he not only counselled the deputies who came to him with Bishop Tobia to obey, but warned them emphatically of the consequences if they did not do so.

M. d'Adelbourg advised them strongly to accept the Druse rule, assuring them that they, the Christians, had no cause to fear, nothing "de quoi se redouter," a most important declaration from the Austrian Consul-General, and an entire confirmation of what I have so often had the honour to state. M. d'Adelbourg highly approves of the plan of emigration.

M. Poujade, who met Bishop Tobia at M. d'Adelbourg's, at first wished to advise the deputies to reject the orders (this I have the honour to say quite confidentially), but on a remonstrance or rejoinder from the Austrian Consul-General he told the deputies that he had no instruction, therefore all he could tell them was to act like good Rayahs, and that if he were to give them his private opinion he would advise them to obey.

Another local cause of the submission of the Christians was the absence of Bishop Tobia, who did not attend the second meeting, and who resigned immediately after it broke up.

Having consulted M. d'Adelbourg and myself as to whether he had not better resign, we advised him to do so.

But the chief and main cause of the present state of things was the honourable, consistent, and benevolent line of policy pursued by Her Majesty's Government with regard to the Lebanon.

The Earl of Aberdeen's admirable despatch produced an immediate effect on those foreign influences which have hitherto rendered the settlement of the great question impossible unless by means of coercion.

The arrival of troops at Beyrout produced also a most favourable effect. Therefore your Excellency's unceasing exertions to strengthen the civil power in this country have met with their just reward.

I have been unceasingly occupied, previous to and during the meeting of the Divan, in consulting with and giving counsel to the Turkish authorities in fusing another deep-laid Shehab scheme to create agitation in the Kesrouan, in uniting the two Druse national parties of the Djablats and the Yesseks, who were in discord, and inducing the Turkish authorities to maintain the influence which was necessary for them in order to carry out the two difficult and delicate measures in question by a due vindication of the law of the land.

By way of still further conciliating the Christians, I have advised the Turkish authorities to prevent the Druse Kizlikan never to send Druse wallahs or sheriffs' officers, to Christian families, but always Christian hawallee. This they immediately agreed to.

As regards the present state of feeling of the deputies, it is irritable, disappointed and bitter. Many of them bitterly reproach Bishop Tobia as having encouraged them to resist all conciliation, and then deserting them at the crisis.

There has been no commotion as yet in the mixed districts.

I have advised the Turkish authorities to treat the deputies with the utmost moderation and kindness; to see them and converse with them separately; when the emigration begins to let it proceed slowly with the utmost regularity and system, village after village, and only two or three families at a time.

In this way the Christians will have time to reflect and the Druse chiefs will have time to use all sorts of conciliating measures to induce their Christian tenantry and vassals to stay.

For my own part I adhere to my former opinion that the delicate measure of emigration will be very limited. If the only effect of it is to transfer those who have suffered most from the Druses, a few hot-headed agitators, to the Christian district, the result will be very beneficial.

I trust that the Porte will be pleased in its generosity to give that degree of pecuniary aid which will lighten the expense of emigration to those whom it will really benefit, and yet will be sufficient to induce any one to leave their home for sake of the compensation.

I should not do my duty if I did not bring to your Excellency's notice the moderation, patience, and benevolence shown by the Captain Pasha and Assand Pasha in the execution of the most difficult and delicate duty allotted to them.

They have deserved well of their Sovereign, their Court and Christian ty.

For the entire confidence and good-will shown to myself as Her Majesty's servant I shall always feel grateful.

I should have said that Omer Effendi attended the Divan. He seems in every way worthy of the important mission entrusted to him.

I have, &c.

Signed HUGH ROSE

No. 45

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning

(No. 167.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, October 19, 1844.

I RECEIVED on the 10th instant, and I have laid before the Queen your Excellency's despatches from No. 199 to No. 204, the last of the 19th of September, inclusive.

In acknowledging the receipt of your despatch No. 203 in regard to Rose's report of the acceptance by the Druse and Maronite deputies, of the arrangement proposed by the authorities of the Porte for the settlement of the affairs of Mount Lebanon, I am happy to take the opportunity to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government are fully sensible of the extent to which your Excellency has contributed to bring about the satisfactory solution of a question which was beset by so many difficulties. Her Majesty's Government have entirely approved your proceedings with reference to these affairs, and they are happy to perceive that your conduct is also duly appreciated by the Porte.

Your Excellency will state to the Turkish Ministers that Her Majesty's Government are highly gratified by what has now been accomplished in Syria, and that they trust that no measures will be neglected by the Porte to give stability to the administration in that country.

The harmony which appears to have prevailed at the conclusion of these matters between the Representatives of the two Powers both at Constantinople and in Syria, is not the least gratifying circumstance in the transaction. Her Majesty's Government sincerely trust that such harmony may continue, and they would wish your Excellency to use your best endeavours to promote it, as the surest means of preventing any discontented persons who may be found among the subjects of the Sultan in Syria from engaging in schemes incompatible with the tranquillity of that country.

I am, &c.

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received October 26.)

No. 215)

My Lord,

Buyukdery, October 2, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to forward, inclosed herewith, for your Lordship's information, a despatch which I have just now addressed to Her Majesty's Consul-General in Syria. The several inclosures annexed to it, together with the despatch itself, contain in substance whatever points of any interest I have to communicate at present on the subject of Mount Lebanon.

Aware that Colonel Rose is in the habit of conveying the amplest information of what passes around him to your Lordship's office, I hold it unnecessary to load the correspondence with copies of his numerous despatches to me.

I am informed that the Russian Consul in Syria takes a less sanguine view than his British colleague of the future tranquillity of Mount Lebanon; but not having seen M. Baile's reports, I am unable to state on what ground she entertains the apprehensions which are ascribed to him by my informant.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No. 46

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

No. 161

Sir,

Buyukdery, October 2, 1844.

YOUR despatches to the 23rd ultimo inclusive reached me late on the 29th. I collect generally from their contents that with the exception of one or two doubtful incidents nothing had occurred to interrupt the peace of the Mountain, and that whatever intrigues might be meditated, the authority of the Pashas, when supported effectively by their Government, would probably suffice to maintain public order, and to prevent any serious resistance to the execution of those administrative measures which were lately accepted with submission by the deputies assembled at Beyrout.

A few hours after the arrival of your despatches, I received from Rifaat Pasha the two papers of which copies are inclosed herewith, the one purporting to be a proclamation addressed by Halil Pasha to the inhabitants of Lebanon, the other a memorandum, in substance, of the Porte's new instructions to that commander.

The deficient nature of the latter document, as compared with my previous recommendations, and the suggestions contained in your correspondence, induced me to make a fresh representation to Rifaat Pasha in the sense of our common views, and to request that the Turkish steamer appointed to go to sea on the following day, should be detained for such further instructions as the Porte might decide upon addressing to the Captain Pasha or the Pasha of Sidon.

My proposals were accordingly that the departure of the steamer was postponed, and the amendments I suggested were received favourably by Rifaat Pasha, and submitted immediately to the Council.

The nature of those amendments, and the degree to which the Porte has adopted them, will be made clear by a perusal of the two papers which I now inclose to you.

I think you will find in my memorandum every point to which you had invited my attention; and if the Porte's reply be still imperfect, it is useless to attempt to alter it. The Council has twice deliberated on its contents within the last ten days, and has finally come to a distinct conclusion on each point. Your communications with Halil Pasha, who is fully prepared to attend to any advice which you may offer him in a friendly manner, will no doubt contribute powerfully to supply the deficiencies.

I am of opinion that it would be very desirable for the Pashas to begin by paying an instalment of the 10,000 purses for which the Porte is now respon-

ible, but I question whether you will be able to obtain the accomplishment of his object.

I am assured by Rifaat Pasha that the French Ambassador's insidious advice to detach from the Druse Kaimacam such villages of the mixed districts as have a large majority of their population Christian, and Shoomah in particular, is not accepted by the Porte.

Whatever may be necessary to complete the line of demarcation on the principle of the moukatas is a fit matter of consultation between you and the Pashas.

I understand that some additional regiments, to be replaced by troops from here, are gone or going from Smyrna to Beyrout, and that a portion of the forces already at Beyrout is ordered to Nabloos.

Rifaat Pasha has denied to Mr. Alison, as explicitly as Halil Pasha appears to have done to you, that the Porte entertains the slightest idea of turning the Government of a Turkish Pasha into Mount Lebanon.

Whatever notion of this kind may have been heretofore admitted at the Porte, there is reason to believe that now at least it is entirely abandoned.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 2 in No. 46.

Proclamation of Halil Pasha to the Inhabitants of Mount Lebanon.

(Traduction.)

IL est inutile de vous dire que par suite des événements qu'on sait s'être passés au Mont Liban, et conformément aux sentimens pleins de justice et de clémence dont Sa Hautesse est animée envers tous les sujets de la Sublime Porte, deux Kaimacams ont été nommés conformément à l'arrangement fait l'année 58 (1842) savoir l'un pour la partie Druse et l'autre pour la partie Chrétienne. Depuis deux ans et demi sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse les Kaimacams n'ont eu aucun acte de violence à provoquer, ont maintenu la paix et le repos et la tranquillité se perpétue et de jour en jour. Iray à quel les questions de l'administration et des propriétés, les Kaimacams traitent avec équité, mais d'un côté la Sublime Porte pour obtenir à tout le monde la solution de ces questions sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse pour assurer par là la tranquillité et le repos, ces deux points sont également à la veu de notre souverain, et la manière suivante :

1. Propriétés pillées. D'après la décision du Conseil d'Etat pour l'indemnité des propriétés des propriétés et après avoir décidé que les Druses exagèrent à proportionnement sur la somme d'indemnité, l'indemnité de 100,000 heures seront payées par les Druses sur la somme de 100,000 heures à des terres raisonnables. Le reste aussi de l'indemnité pour les Druses mais comme il n'est pas possible de payer la somme de 100,000 heures et que de l'autre côté aussi les Chrétiens ont essuyé des pertes énormes par le pillage de leurs biens, l'indemnité de leurs biens, par la compassion, et que la sollicitude et la commiseration souveraines sont constamment dirigées vers les habitants et les rayas, Sa Hautesse a daigné accorder la faveur que le reste dont il s'agit soit payé à termes de la caisse du Gouvernement de Saïda, à ceux qui ont souffert, et par le canal des hommes affidés qui auront été élus par les Chrétiens.

2. L'administration. Conformément à l'arrangement fait il y a quelque temps par la Sublime Porte, on fera gouverner les nations Druse et Maronite, comme cela se pratiquait présent par deux Kaimacams séparés l'un de l'autre. Il y a seulement ceci, savoir : dans les Moukatas Druses où il y a des rayas établis et mêlés avec les Druses, les rayas seront, comme cela a été ab antiquo, sous la juridiction du Kaimacam Druse et des Moukatadys Druses; mais afin que les Moukatadys ne les molestent en aucune manière et injustement il y aura dans chaque moukata un Vékil élu par les rayas et approuvé par le Kaimacam : ces Vékils seront là pour exercer une surveillance. Dans les cas où les Moukatadys commettraient envers les rayas quelque acte d'injustice, les Vékils en avertiraient d'abord le Kaimacam; et s'ils ne sont pas écoutés, ils feront des

représentations au Pacha de la province, et alors il sera fait droit à leurs plaintes et à leur demandes. Ainsi, les Moukatadjs Druses ne pourront plus commettre des actes vexatoires; et sous les auspices de Sa Hautesse, le Gouvernement (de la province) aura soin d'assurer de plus en plus le repos et la tranquillité d'esprit des rayas. Dans les moukatas Maronites où il y a des Druses établis et mêlés avec les Chrétiens, on suivra le principe ci-dessus énoncé.

On fera gouverner Deir-el-Kamar en y établissant un Vékil de la part des Druses et un Vékil de la part des Maronites.

Inclusure 3 in No. 46

Memorandum communicated by Rifaat Pasha to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Traduction.)

Il faut que l'administration du Mont Liban se fasse conformément à la décision énoncée dans le memorandum qui a été donné relativement au Mont Liban par son Excellence le Capoudan Pacha.

Il a été déclaré que si les Maronites qui se trouvent dans les villages mixtes ne sont pas satisfaits de ces arrangements on leur permettra d'émigrer et de se transporter quelque autre part dans les limites de la province. Mais d'après la Sublime Porte l'émigration est une chose incommode et la manière de les gouverner et de les protéger, d'après les arrangements faits des deux côtés, est préférable. Supposé cependant que parmi eux il s'en trouve qui croient devoir émigrer pour leur tranquillité et qui demandent eux-mêmes à se transporter quelque autre part dans la province, on n'y mettra pas obstacle.

Quoiqu'il en soit, si la protection des sujets est une chose qu'on a à cœur, le maintien d'un bon ordre et de la tranquillité du pays est aussi une chose très importante.

La Sublime Porte fera des concessions, elle fera preuve de générosité dans l'affaire des indemnités, affaire qui a donné lieu à tant de discussions. Si en présence d'une si grande faveur, les Maronites, ne se conformant ni à l'exécution de la décision prise, ni à ce qui regarde l'émigration, oseront susciter des murmures et faire des intrigues, dans ce cas la Sublime Porte sera obligée, en s'attachant à ce que prescrivent les principes des châtimens inhérens à l'État, à prendre les mesures nécessaires pour rétablir la tranquillité en faisant exécuter les arrangements déjà établis.

Il est clair que les Agents étrangers sur les lieux doivent cesser de faire naître des difficultés et encourager les esprits.

Inclusure 4 in No. 46.

Decision of the Porte.—October 1, 1844.

(Traduction.)

Indemnités

Il a été décidé par le passé qu'il serait donné pour indemnités pour les propriétés des rayas en 1841 et 1842 un arif de 10000 livres. A présent on a décidé que 3000 et tant de bourses seront recouvrées des Druses et données aux Maronites, et que le reste sera payé par la Sublime Porte. Mais quand on dit le reste la quantité de 10,000 bourses n'est pas clairement spécifiée, et on dit qu'il sera possible d'arranger cela au moyen de quelque diminution. Quoiqu'il en soit, il est de fait que la Sublime Porte montrera de la générosité sur ce chapitre, et fera des faveurs, loin de faire des refus. Il y a seulement ceci à dire, savoir qu'en même temps que, d'après les résolutions précédentes, une partie de l'argent doit être employée aux arrangements du tribut du Mont Liban et le reste payé des autres recouvrements des revenus de la province, il serait déraisonnable de payer l'argent dont il s'agit tout à la fois avant que le point vital de l'administration ait été consolidé, et que tout murmure à cet égard ait cessé. C'est naturellement lorsque la question de l'administration aura été bien

établie, que l'argent sera payé à termes; et voilà dans quel sens on a écrit sur ce point là bas.

Démarcation.

La possibilité et la nécessité de la démarcation et la manière de l'établir sont des choses qu'on ne peut savoir que là bas. C'est pourquoi on a écrit en Syrie que si la démarcation est possible et nécessaire, on fasse à cet égard ce qui est nécessaire.

Emigration.

Quant à ceux qu'on dit vouloir émigrer, la Sublime Porte ne propose pas l'émigration, elle n'y emploiera aucune espèce de contrainte elle croit même que l'émigration ne sera pas nécessaire et elle mettra tous ses soins à ce qu'ils soient parfaitement protégés. Si se trouve pourtant des gens qui veulent uniquement pour se mettre en sûreté et assurer leur repos, émigrer on ne s'y opposera pas. Mais attention que ces gens sont des Maronites et que ce sont les Maronites qui touchent l'argent des indemnités qui, impossibles qu'elles étaient pendant si longtemps, sont à présent assurées, grâce aux secours de la Sublime Porte, on ne voit pas la nécessité de leur donner en outre des secours pécuniaires pour les aider à émigrer. Mais la bonne volonté de leur donner toutes les facilités possibles dans leurs affaires ne manquera pas.

Deux Vékils à Deir-el-Kamar.

On installera à Deir-el-Kamar de la part des Kaïmacams Druse et Maronite deux Vékils à être élus par les habitants. Ces Vékils géreront les affaires des deux nations, et dans les affaires importantes et d'un haut intérêt ils auront recours à l'autorité provinciale. Voilà ce qui a déjà été arrêté après quelques communications de part et d'autre; et les avis reçus des lieux mêmes font voir que cette mesure doit être exécutée ainsi.

Troupes.

Naturellement on laissera dans les environs de la Montagne le nombre de troupes nécessaire, et l'on enverra graduellement le surplus dans les autres parties de la province.

Assistance aux Kaïmacams.

C'est un devoir pour l'État de faire en sorte que l'autorité aide aux Kaïmacams dans la Montagne à maintenir la tranquillité du pays. Les autorités ont des instructions qui portent qu'ils ne doivent employer la force que dans le cas d'une rébellion ouverte dans la Montagne. Mais en cas d'une rébellion ouverte et d'insubordination, les autorités sont suffisamment autorisées à infliger les châtimens nécessaires. Malgré cela on va leur donner des ordres plus forts conçus dans ce sens.

On a fixé il y a déjà quelque temps les appointemens annuels des Kaïmacams, y compris les frais pour leurs familles et pour les hommes de police qui servent à leur service—appointemens à payer sur le tribut de la Montagne, et il a été décidé qu'un bataillon sera de permanence dans un endroit aux environs de Deir-el-Kamar. Naturellement les hommes de police seront employés dans les affaires de peu d'importance. Si, Dieu garde, les désordres d'une nature plus sérieuse surviennent, alors ce serait le devoir de l'autorité et de la force locale de faire ce qui serait nécessaire. Cela étant, il a été jugé inutile de mettre des troupes à la disposition des Kaïmacams. Si, indépendamment des hommes de police, l'emploi de troupes devenait nécessaire, ce serait à l'autorité à savoir ce qu'il y aurait à faire.

Il est en effet du devoir d'un Gouvernement de châtier les hommes qui s'opposent ouvertement à l'autorité; c'est là une règle de police observée dans

tous les pays. Aussi les officiers de la Sublime Porte ont-ils des instructions qui leur enjoignent de corriger et de punir ceux qui commettraient des actes séditieux et qui se trouveraient en état de rébellion ouverte. On va leur donner cette fois-ci encore les ordres nécessaires là-dessus.

Arrérages dus aux employés.

S'il est dû à ceux qui ont été employés, conformément à ce qui a été établi il y a quelque temps par les autorités en Syrie des appointements qui se seraient accumulés, c'est sur les lieux mêmes qu'on doit le savoir, c'est là qu'on doit voir ce qu'il faut leur donner comme leur revenant de droit d'après les appointements qui leur ont été assignés. Ainsi on va écrire là-bas qu'on arrange cette question en se tenant aux principes déjà arrêtés.

Les appointements des Kaimacams.

Les appointements qui avaient été assignés aux Kaimacams ayant paru être plus forts qu'il ne faut on en a porté le chiffre plus bas, mais plus tard on les a rétablis tels qu'ils étaient auparavant. Ils sont suffisants et on ne voit pas qu'il soit nécessaire de leur donner rien de plus.

Nomination d'un Cadi.

La nomination d'un Cadi pour des affaires roulant sur des réclamations est effectivement nécessaire. Aussi on avait en fait demandé en conséquence de laquelle et d'après la résolution qui en a été prise, on s'écrit dans le temps en Syrie. Les mêmes ordres vont être renouvelés.

Inclosure 5 in No. 46

Memorandum for Rifaat Pasha.

THE papers respecting Lebanon now communicated by the Porte, are so far satisfactory that they embrace in general the engagements into which the Pasha at Beyrout had entered with the deputies from the Mountain. I find it my duty however to observe that some of the points previously recommended appear to have been either neglected or not sufficiently declared. This is much to be lamented on an occasion in which clearness of instruction and absence of contest are no less needed than proofs of humanity and munificence. I trust that the Ottoman Council will be as well as disposed to remedy what is wanting in this respect and such is the hope and expectation with which the points expressed are here enumerated.

1. The amount of pecuniary aid the Sultan has generally undertaken to pay for, if not purses ought to be specified. The payment ought also to be specified.

2. Some points should be pointed out for fixing the actual line of demarcation established in the principle of the mukataas. At least the Pasha should be directed to enquire in the spot in question the persons of distinguished character and circumstances to whom the duty might be entrusted. The Consuls could be consulted.

3. It was hoped that some pecuniary facilities might be assigned for the eventual support of the Pasha as should apply for leave to emigrate.

4. It is not stated that the Vakoufs of Deir el Kamar should be independent of the Kaimacams and have liberty to appeal to the Pasha in case of difference and that no taxes be added arising between them.

5. No mention is made of the eventual and gradual retirement of the troops.

According to the despatches just received from Beyrout, by which it appears that measures are taken to be practised in favour of the Shababs, and that the Turkish authorities do not feel themselves at liberty to repress certain acts of violence and insubordination which have lately taken place it is absolutely necessary that the Porte should immediately issue clear instructions and take

effective measures for the support of the new Government. 1. By placing twelve or fifteen hundred regulars at the disposal of the Kaimacams. 2. By punishing overt acts of violence and resistance against authority. 3. By paying debts of long standing to the Kaimacams who have served assiduously in the same manner as those who served under Omar Pasha have been lately paid. 4. To assist the pecuniary wants of the two Kaimacams. 5. To send Haid Pasha a sufficient supply of money; and 6. To authorize the appointment of a Kadi for the Druses.

I earnestly recommend that these several points should be immediately provided for, and the promise at least sent down with the instructions now preparing.

No. 47

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received November 5.)

(No. 218.)

My Lord,

Buyukdery, October 8, 1844.

I HAVE the honour to inclose herewith, for your Lordship's more complete information, some additional correspondence which I have addressed to Colonel Rose since the date of my last despatch on the subject of Mount Lebanon.

I trust that your Lordship will approve my having availed myself of the opening afforded by the French Ambassador to bring the Five Representatives once more together upon the same ground respecting the affairs of Syria.

The very imperfect degree of success which has attended our joint representations to obtain a specification of the exact amount of money to be paid by the Porte, and a promise of paying down an estimated instalment, appears but too manifestly from my last despatch to Colonel Rose.

It is to be hoped that the Captain Pasha will be induced to make up for what is wanting in the intentions of the Porte, as any disappointment or appearance of deception on the part of the Turkish authorities cannot but render the pacification of the Mountain more difficult and precarious. The worst of all is that the resources of the public treasury in Syria are such I fear as to impede the execution even of the laudable intentions.

I have, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 47

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

(No. 19.)

Sir,

Buyukdery, October 5, 1844.

THE Turkish steamer having been detained till to-day, I am enabled to inform you that I have availed myself of a suitable disposition manifested by the French Ambassador, to obtain a joint application of the Five Representatives to engage the Porte to specify in its instructions to Haid Pasha the exact amount of 10,000 purses as that portion of the indemnity which the Turkish Government has generously taken upon itself, and also actually to pay the first instalment, if practicable, without further delay, as the best possible means of securing the good will of the Maronites, and promoting the permanent tranquillity of the Mountain.

It is out of my power to ascertain the success of our application before the departure of the steamer, but at all events I trust that the fact of its having been made on the part of all the Powers who were parties to the arrangement of 1842, will have its due effect both here and in Syria.

I am, &c.

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 2 in No 47.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose

Sir,

Beyruldery, October 7, 1844.

I AVAIL myself of the Austrian steamer to inform you that the joint application of the Five Representatives, as described in my preceding number, has not produced that complete effect which I rather desired than expected. What we have gained is a reference to Halil Pasha, and an assurance that the Porte will accept His Excellency's decision, and should he so decide, will fix the share of the indemnity to be paid on her part to the Maronites at 10,000 purses. The reason given in excuse of this very imperfect reply is the want of precision in Halil Pasha's report, which Omer Effendi, called upon for an explanation, has attempted to account for by stating that the Captain Pasha hoped to obtain some diminution of the entire sum by a deduction of the arrears of tribute, and in consideration of its being no longer intended to require the restitution of any plundered articles.

With respect to the immediate payment of an instalment, it has been found impracticable to obtain any positive promise, or more than vague intimations to that effect.

I cherish, nevertheless, a hope that the Porte has been made sensible of its interest in this respect, and that you will not find it impossible to make up for the obscure expressions of the Porte by the exercise of your more immediate influence over the Captain Pasha.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) **STRATFORD CANNING**

No. 48.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 171.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, November 15, 1844.

WITH reference to your despatch No. 216 of the 8th October, I have to state to your Excellency, that Her Majesty's Government, as indeed as you will have already inferred from despatch No. 167 of the 19th ultimo, entirely approve of your having taken advantage of the earliest opportunity to re-unite the Representatives of the Five Powers in their communications with the Porte respecting the affairs of Syria.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) **ABERDEEN**

No. 49.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.— Received December 24)

(No. 270.)

(Extract.)

Beyruldery, November 30, 1844.

THE French Chargé d'Affaires having called here yesterday took occasion to read me portions of two instructions received from M. Guizot, by the last French steam-packet, one of them relating to the affairs of Syria.

With respect to Syria or rather to Mount Lebanon, the language of M. Guizot corresponded entirely with the views of Her Majesty's Government, and professed a sincere intention of carrying into effect if practicable the arrangement of 1842.

M. de Bateaux after reading the passages in question stated that he was not directed to make any communication of them to me, but that he had done so of his own accord in order to manifest his desire of maintaining the most cordial intercourse with Her Majesty's Embassy.

Your Lordship has ampler means than any at my disposal, for judging what reliance may be placed on these agreeable appearances. Till better advised, I am willing to hope that recent events have so far strengthened the hands of the French Government, as to enable them to realise their moderate professions and pacific assurances more completely than heretofore, and that for a time at least, however brief, we may be tolerably free from those disturbing pretensions which in Syria, in Greece, and in other parts of the Levant, have occasioned so much surprise and concern during the last eighteen months.

No. 50.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received January 3, 1845.)

(No. 279.)

My Lord,

Beyruldery, December 17, 1844.

HER Majesty's Consul in Syria being in direct correspondence with your Lordship's office, I purposely avoid the useless and ungrateful task of repeating the statements which I receive from him. I have no doubt that the same unwearied activity of which I receive such complete proofs, continues to provide your Lordship with a full and minute relation of every important occurrence within the precincts of Mount Lebanon. The copious reports which I have myself successively received from Colonel Rose within the last two months, are far from exhibiting such results as the previous announcement that the affairs of the Mountain had been happily brought to a settlement, encouraged me to expect. Every succeeding packet has thrown a darker shade of doubt upon the prospect; and the last advices bearing date the 6th instant, announce in contradiction to the preceding ones, that the Pashas at Beyrout, instead of proceeding to enforce the adopted measures, had referred to Constantinople for fresh instructions.

My conduct respecting these matters has been adapted to the circumstances described in each set of Colonel Rose's despatches, and in explanation of its general tenour I take the liberty of referring your Lordship to the copy inclosed herewith of my last official communication to that officer.

Your Lordship will observe that it announces the intention on my part of proposing a conference to my colleagues, with a view to repeating in concert the same representations which I had before urged singly upon the Ministers of the Porte.

That conference took place on the 13th instant, and after some discussion, during which it appeared that the reports of the several Consuls at Beyrout agreed in their principal features, and that the Internuncio was scarcely more disposed than before to take any common step in support of our views, while the French Chargé d'Affaires, though more ready to join in a common representation to the Porte, had points of reserve which it was expedient to respect. I succeeded in obtaining the general assent to a measure which, though it was not in strict accordance with my own ideas, I thought might suffice to produce an effective impression at the Porte. The substance of our agreement was that the Porte should be advised to perform without delay the promises given to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, more particularly the payment of the indemnities and arrears of salary due to the Mookadjuds and other civil functionaries of the Mountain, and also to employ forthwith such means of enforcing its authority as should with firmness and efficiency maintain the peace of the country and repress any culpable attempt at insubordination. The form which we agreed to adopt was that of an identical instruction addressed to the respective interpreters for communication in the usual manner to the Ottoman Secretary of State. The Austrian and Russian Envoys obligingly undertook to draw up the intended paper, and I left them in the full persuasion that the communication agreed upon would be sent in to the Porte without delay.

Circumstances of which I must defer the explanation, have since occurred to suspend the execution of our agreement, and the arrival of further despatches from Syria not only to me but to the Porte and my colleagues, may well raise a doubt as to the expediency of persisting in the adopted course. We are now informed that in addition to the refusal of the Christians of the

mixed districts to accept, save under coercion, the measures prescribed to them by the Porte, the Pashas have renounced their intention of enforcing those measures, while, on one side, the appearances of unfair play, and consequently the evidences of an untried experiment are again pointed out by Colonel Rose, and, on the other, a conviction is still entertained by that zealous servant of the public that the announced measures might still be carried into effect without bloodshed or prejudice to the real interests of the inhabitants, though it is become doubtful under present circumstances whether a compromise between the conflicting views of this case might not be effected with advantage to all parties.

I am anxious, my Lord, to afford you the earliest information of this new state of the Syrian question as operating here, and to express the deep importance which I attach to an early solution of it; but the pressure of other circumstances and a positive want of time before the departure of the messenger compel me to abstain from going more deeply into the subject at this moment.

I am informed by Chekib Effendi that a council is to be held at the Porte to-morrow on the contents of the Captain Pasha's despatches, and that the result of its deliberation will eventually form the object of a distinct communication to the Five Representatives.

The previous conduct of the Porte while waiting or pretending to wait for despatches from Syria and its consequent of the instructions transmitted to Halil Pasha in the course of last month, tend greatly to confirm the suspicions entertained with so much reason by Colonel Rose. The same causes, stating the Sultan's immediate authority in Mount Lebanon on a more extensive scale, and the fear of offending France and Austria, do really appear to have been among the more prominent causes to which the present most unsatisfactory and hazardous state of affairs in Syria is to be traced.

I have, &c.
Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 50.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Buyukdery, December 8, 1844.

THOUGH I have nothing of importance to convey to you, I will not allow the Austrian steamer to depart for Syria without availing myself of the opportunity to acknowledge the numerous despatches which I have received from you in the course of the last and present months. The numbers which have successively reached since I wrote to you on the 24th of October, extend from 57 to 69, both inclusive, and they are accompanied with various reports to the Earl of Aberdeen.

From the earlier parts of this correspondence I collected that Halil Pasha and the Pasha of Sion continued to be in communication with the deputies from the mixed districts, and were waiting to know whether the inhabitants would confirm the disposition expressed by their representatives to accept the measures announced to them by the Turkish authorities. I also understood from your remarks that the Pashas did not appear to be sufficiently active in commencing the execution of such of the said measures as depended upon themselves or upon the Porte, and particularly the payment of the indemnities and of the arrears of appointment due to the Mookatuls and other official functionaries of the Mountain, and that it was desirable that they and their Government should be made sensible of the danger incurred by persisting in so weak and doubtful a course of conduct. In adding, with respect to the above-mentioned districts, that, notwithstanding some partial exceptions, appearances had become less favourable to the prospect of acceptance and tranquility, that, on the other hand, you had found less reason to suspect the sincerity of your French and Austrian colleagues, but that a further reinforcement of troops as a measure of precaution, more determination in the employment of them as a measure of lawful authority, and some assistance for emigration as a measure of benevolence, were at the same time most desirable, not to say necessary, I believe that I omit no point of real importance presented to my notice by such of your despatches as came to my hands in the course of last month.

I have now to inform you that all these points have been repeatedly pressed upon the consideration of the Turkish Government both verbally and in writing, and also more than once personally by myself. I have no reason to believe that they were more attentively considered in the existing circumstances than when on previous occasions they had been recommended with all proper earnestness and a certain appearance of success by Her Majesty's Embassy to the acceptance of the Sultan and his Council. The only official reply, however, which I could obtain, was that despatches were expected from Halil Pasha, and that no further decision could be taken until they arrived. The difficulty of dealing with this evasive and procrastinating answer was to a certain degree increased by the recent changes which had taken place in the Council, and particularly in the department of Foreign Affairs.

The last four numbers of your despatches to me, which were received on the night of the 5th instant, exhibit a declining prospect of voluntary settlement, an increased apprehension of disorder that might still however be prevented by continued remissness and recent vacillation in the conduct of the Pashas, with strong symptoms of bad faith and a bye-purpose, and also unfortunately with recurring indications, as you conceive, of insincerity with respect to the arrangement of 1842 on the part of the French and even of the Austrian Consul. If it be consoling on the one side to find that no overt acts of resistance to the Sultan's authority in these matters had yet taken place, the declaration on the other of a large proportion of the inhabitants of the mixed districts that they would not accept the proffered terms, and the Pasha's declaration, equally distinct, that the Porte would make no sacrifice to facilitate emigration, may well prepare us for the worst.

I cannot be surprised under such circumstances that you solicit my attention to the urgent importance of obtaining further military reinforcements without delay under the command of an officer of tried reputation, not only for the maintenance of the Sultan's authority in Mount Lebanon, and for the execution of the adopted arrangement, but also for the prevention of mischief and confusion throughout the province of Syria.

This state of things, though by no means desperate, is the very reverse of cheering; and I am deeply alive to the importance, while repeating my general admonitions as to Syria, of calling upon the Porte in decided terms to redeem the pledges which she has given, and to complete the measures partially adopted or formally announced for the final pacification of Mount Lebanon agreeably to her engagements with the Five intervening Powers. I am moreover of opinion that although such of my colleagues with whom I have heretofore communicated on this subject, including the French Representative, have no doubt latterly advised the Porte in the same sense as I have, it is now essential to obtain their full concurrence to a joint impressive recommendation of the questions at issue, as matters which no longer brook delay, hesitation, or uncertainty.

The early departure of the steam-packet, if not prevented by the extreme badness of the weather, renders it unfortunately impossible for me to combine the necessary operations, and still more so to obtain a result which can be communicated to you, save by express, for many days to come.

It would be reasonable to hope that as the Pashas had been so long proceeding with the execution of the adopted measures, the Porte would be the first to recognise without further instigation that she cannot be too prompt in giving them the necessary authority, and placing at their disposal whatever means may still be wanting for the accomplishment of a purpose professed to be entertained by all parties. It is not altogether impossible that instructions corresponding with this idea may be transmitted to Beyrout by the present occasion, but I have no authority to warrant such an expectation, and for the moment I must look principally to the effect of your continued exertions which may derive some aid from a season repressive of enterprise, and unfavourable to rebellious operations, especially in a mountainous country.

I cannot conclude even this provisional despatch without congratulating you upon the re-establishment, though late, of a garrison of the Sultan's troops at Jerusalem, and the confidence which its presence had already restored to the Christian inhabitants of that city. My satisfaction would have been more complete if the troops at their entrance there and on their passage from Jaffa, had been spared the humiliation of associating with Abougash and his followers.

and receiving a kind of escort from one who according to the common voice deserves no notice from his Sovereign but that of the executioner.

Strange as it may appear, it cost me no small trouble, not only with Rifaat Pasha but with the chief Seraskier, to obtain that limited supply of troops which enabled the Pashas at Beyrout to follow your advice of sending a detachment to Jerusalem.

In Albania, at Scutari, along the frontier of Greece, and in the neighbourhood of Moussoul and Diarbekir, the Porte would incur a manifest hazard by reducing the military stations; and although the Seraskier still seems to aim at raising an army beyond the fiscal resources of the State, you know with what difficulty new regiments are formed, and what distances must be traversed in this vast empire to make the existing forces adequate to every demand. These circumstances alone present serious considerations whenever there is question of enforcing the most advisable measures in this country; and deeply as I feel with you the necessity of maintaining the Sultan's authority in the enforcement of those adopted for the administration of Mount Lebanon, I never can agree that it would have been right for us to sanction the principle of introducing the new plan by acts of military rigour. It is quite a different thing to impose respect by the presence of superior power, to that of the force for the punishment of crime and the maintenance of public tranquillity when compromised by overt acts of rebellion or disorderly resistance to measures appointed by lawful authority. A less considerate system may be employed freely by the Porte in other parts of Syria where the inhabitants have not been taught to rely upon Christian interference; and considering the exigency of the case I was careful, when consulted by Rifaat Pasha in the summer, to leave no doubt as to my admission of this important difference.

I am, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 51

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received February 28.)

(No. 24)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 4, 1845.

APPREHENDING that the state of affairs in Mount Lebanon, as reported some months ago by Colonel Rose, may have given your Lordship some anxiety to know the result of the negotiations, I regret that it is not yet in my power to announce any definitive result. The one remaining question now at issue is the future tranquillity of the Mountain would seem to depend on its solution. The two accompanying papers addressed in succession by Chekib Effendi to the Representatives of the Five Powers, will put your Lordship in possession of the Porte's proposal. The second memorandum originated in a step taken by me and my colleagues after the receipt of the first. We requested the Porte to favour us with some further explanation of its own views, and we hoped to attain thereby a position of less uncertainty and embarrassment.

Unfortunately the Porte has an object of its own to accomplish, and the same conflicting opinions which have done so much mischief in Syria, are not inactive here.

As discussions, provoked by the Porte's application for our advice, are still pending, it would be a waste of your Lordship's time if I were to do more than mention their existence at the present moment. It will be a source of just satisfaction if we are able to unite in a joint opinion, without departing from those principles which the British Government at least has hitherto kept steadily in view. But the difficulties are greater than I like to contemplate, and the greatest of all arises from the Porte's insincerity and eagerness to lay a foundation for the establishment of her authority in due season over the whole of Mount Lebanon.

I hope to have it in my power to bring the question together with its result, in so far as discussion is concerned, more completely under your Lordship's con-

sideration in a few days. It is gratifying meanwhile to learn from Colonel Rose a more recent account, that there is no reason to apprehend any serious outbreak in the Mountain at the present juncture.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 51.

Memorandum addressed by Chekib Effendi to the Representatives of the Five Powers, January 3, 1845

(Translation)

LA question du Mont Liban, et l'on n'a pas besoin de le dire à votre Excellence non plus qu'à ses collègues les Représentants des Grandes Puissances, n'a pu avoir jusqu'ici une bonne solution. L'établissement et la mise en pratique de l'administration et des autres dispositions locales trahissent en longueur, et sont dans un état de perplexité.

La Sublime Porte a, on ne peut plus, à cœur de voir par une heureuse solution de cette question, l'administration et les autres points qui concernent les Montagnes heureusement arrangés et terminés, la tranquillité du pays parfaitement rétablie, la restitution des propriétés des Maronites qui ont été pillées durant les troubles qui ont éclaté, et les indemnités effectuées. C'est pourquoi elle a expédié il y a quelque temps son Excellence le Capoudan Pacha sur les côtes de la Syrie, avec plein pouvoir et muni d'instructions basées sur la justice et l'équité.

Comme son Excellence a fait voir dans un rapport que les Druses n'auront pas les moyens de payer entièrement les propriétés, la Sublime Porte, afin de faciliter et d'arranger l'affaire de l'administration, par compassion pour les deux parties, et uniquement par un effet de sa clémence et de sa générosité, a daigné promettre aussi de payer 10,000 bourses.

Les Maronites de quelques villages mixtes qui doivent rester sous le gouvernement du Kaimacani Druse ont l'intention d'émigrer pour leur propre sûreté, ce qui est sujet à une grande gêne. Attendu toutefois que la Montagne ainsi que la province entière de Saïda font partie des Etats de Sa Hautesse, et parmi les Maronites il y en a qui veulent absolument émigrer, on ne s'y opposera point.

On avait écrit en Syrie de mettre à exécution telles mesures et tels moyens que les circonstances locales exigent pour fonder et établir le Gouvernement, et pour exécuter les autres points de l'arrangement, on a jusqu'ici eu l'honneur de ne pas, d'amples informations sur le système à suivre et les mesures à adopter.

Les dépêches qui viennent d'arriver disent "que les Maronites des villages mixtes ne veulent pas émigrer, et qu'ils vont s'établir dans d'autres villages parmi leurs nationaux, à condition que la Sublime Porte leur paye d'avance la moitié de la valeur de leur biens-fonds, et l'autre moitié intégralement après leur établissement ailleurs; qu'il sera impossible de les faire émigrer de cette manière là; et que cela étant il est à la fin devenu nécessaire d'employer la contrainte contre eux, mais que l'acte de contrainte est incompatible avec leurs devoirs en leur qualité de sujets, on se voit obligé de procéder à l'exécution (forcée) de l'arrangement. Mais la Sublime Porte n'approuve pas trop l'effusion du sang, et elle désire par conséquent trouver quelque autre remède, quelque autre moyen de faire accepter les Maronites et de mettre l'arrangement à exécution sans qu'à la fin on ait à leur faire du mal: or, en cas même qu'on y parviendrait, si les Druses ne consentaient pas à cet arrangement, il faudrait alors tourner contre eux la force qu'on a le projet d'employer contre les Maronites; et l'affaire finirait toujours par exiger l'emploi de la force. S'il faut employer la force, faut-il le faire seulement dans les endroits qu'on appelle villages mixtes, ou généralement partout? Ou bien, suffit-il de faire des démonstrations menaçantes? Voilà ce qu'on n'a pas pu bien comprendre par les rapports qui ont été faits. De l'autre côté, l'émigration telle que les Maronites l'entendent, est évidemment une chose gênante pour la Sublime Porte.

Quelque grands qu'aient été jusqu'ici les efforts du Gouvernement Ottoman à l'effet de se procurer des renseignements locaux exacts, les connaissances locales qu'il a obtenues ne sont pas telles qu'elles puissent suffire à résoudre et à planer les difficultés qui se trouvent dans l'exécution des arrangements qui ont été transmis.

Tout en vous annonçant l'intention de la Sublime Porte de faire continuer pour peu de temps encore l'administration actuelle du Mont Liban jusqu'à ce qu'elle ait recueilli les informations et les connaissances locales les plus parfaites afin qu'elle soit plus à même de considérer l'affaire sur toutes ses faces, j'ai l'honneur de vous faire savoir que j'ai été chargé de vous demander votre manière de voir personnelle et amicale et vos opinions franches et sincères dans cette question.

Le 24 Zilkedjé, 1260.

Inclosure 2 in No. 31.

Memorandum addressed by Cheik Effendi to the Representatives of the Five Powers, January 30, 1845.

VOUS savez que sur les dépêches reçues il y a peu de temps de la part des autorités Ottomannes en Syrie relativement à l'état actuel du Mont Liban, la Sublime Porte vous a communiqué ses idées par un memorandum ainsi qu'elle l'a fait par ses agents MM. les Consuls à Paris, à Londres, à Vienne, à Berlin, à Rome, et qu'elle vous a demandé votre opinion et votre façon de penser sur cette question.

Vous avez pris le memorandum en considération, et vous avez demandé à la Sublime Porte les éclaircissements qu'il lui serait possible de donner sur les mesures qu'elle croyait propres à faciliter et hâter la solution des difficultés de la question.

La Sublime Porte s'intéresse vivement à l'établissement de l'administration locale du Mont Liban; mais d'un autre côté aussi, la plus grande partie des habitants de la Montagne consiste en deux nations, savoir, Maronites et Druses, les uns et les autres sujets de l'Empire Ottoman.

La Sublime Porte a le pouvoir et il est possible de mettre complètement à exécution, en employant la force, les arrangements qui uniquement pour rétablir la tranquillité dans le Mont Liban, ont été concertés par le passé ensemble. Mais d'après ce que nous avons appris jusqu'à présent, il n'y a que ceci, c'est que les Maronites refusent de reconnaître les Moukatadjs Druses dans les villages mixtes. Et comme il faudra employer la force pour les obliger à les reconnaître bon gré mal gré, que d'après la Sublime Porte on n'a pas pu obtenir des renseignements locaux suffisants sur la manière d'employer la force, ni jusqu'à quel point on devra le faire, et que l'emploi de la force occasionnera l'effusion du sang, ce que la Sublime Porte ne trouve pas à propos, à moins d'une très grande nécessité, la Sublime Porte n'avait pas pu fixer ses idées et donner les éclaircissements qu'on lui demandait.

Sur ces entrefaites nous avons reçu de nos autorités des avis d'après lesquels on voit qu'il n'y a qu'un moyen de résoudre la question, et ce moyen consiste à laisser les deux nations, les Maronites et les Druses, se gouverner eux-mêmes dans les villages mixtes, pris d'entre eux, chacun dans sa propre race, pour gérer leurs affaires, les uns d'un côté, les autres d'un autre côté, et les Vélais auront dans les affaires qui surviendront à recourir au Moukhir de Saïda.

Les vœux les plus ardents de la Sublime Porte consistent uniquement à faire sortir cette question de l'état de perplexité dans lequel elle se trouve, et à voir la tranquillité du Mont Liban bien établie comme dans les autres parties de ses États.

Voulant donc par un sentiment de clémence prouver de nouveau combien elle abhorre l'effusion de sang sans un juste motif, et quelle importance elle attache à l'affermissement du repos et de la tranquillité de ses sujets de toute nation, la Sublime Porte a jugé à propos, conformément aux derniers avis qu'elle a reçus, de modifier le seul point des arrangements faits, par le passé, qui regarde les villages dont il s'agit; c'est à dire de faire disparaître cet état de perplexité qui existe par l'établissement comme il a été dit plus haut d'un Vélai pour

chacune des deux nations qui se trouvent dans ces villages; lesquels Vélais seront pris parmi eux, et chacun dans sa propre nation, et devront avoir recours dans les affaires qui surviendront au Moukhir de Saïda.

On nous a fait savoir que si les Consuls en Syrie ne s'ingèrent en aucune manière et ne font pas naître de nouveaux incidents, cela aussi facilitera la solution de l'affaire.

Informé que vous serez de la mesure ci-dessus énoncée, vous êtes prié de vouloir bien exprimer de commun accord avec vos collègues des opinions conformes à l'intention que la Sublime Porte s'empresse de vous communiquer, afin qu'elle expédie sans délai des ordres en Syrie.

No. 32.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 15.)

(No. 26.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 12, 1845

THE state of Mount Lebanon continues to be a subject of deep interest, if not of immediate anxiety and apprehension. My colleagues profess in common with me to have in view the arrangement of 1842, and your Lordship is aware that only one obstacle remains in the way of its execution. That obstacle is the government of what are called the mixed districts.

The French and Austrian Representatives concur in requiring the withdrawal of the Maronites from the jurisdiction of the Druse feudatories. They differ however in their general view. The French Chargé d'Affaires would be satisfied with the proposed settlement thus modified, the Intermix would only accept the arrangement for the sake of unanimity, condemning it as an unwise experiment destined to end in the restoration of the Shehabs.

It has been my constant endeavour to find out some method of protecting the Christians without violating rights or principles. But I am not prepared to consider the arrangement of 1842 as an unwise experiment, nor can I consent to make the execution of that arrangement secondary to the object of satisfying the Maronites at every sacrifice.

My object now is that no political change whatever take place without previous deliberation by the Five Powers, and that that deliberation, when once deliberated upon, should be carried into effect by the constituted authorities with every assistance consistent with existing interests, but finally without shirking from the responsibility of carrying it into effect.

Had the Turkish authorities in Syria been undistracted, or not been hurried into weakness by unavowed motives, such as doubt would have been their principle of action and hesitation, referred to Constantinople, the question would have been finally decided at the decision carried out upon the spot.

Justly as the course which has been pursued may be regretted, I have kept steadily in view the importance of maintaining the relations with the Porte, and it was with great reluctance that I receded from the hope of avoiding an appeal to the Five Cabinets.

It is still by no means impossible that a solution of the present difficulty may be obtained here, and much should I be gratified by sparing your Lordship the inconvenience of a fresh discussion upon this subject. The matter is at present in the hands of the Porte; in what shape and under what circumstances I now proceed to relate.

Your Lordship is already in possession of two papers communicated to me and my colleagues by Cheik Effendi. The first of them described the nature of the difficulty experienced in Syria, and asked for our advice. The second, being an answer to our request that the Porte would favour us with a clearer view of its own ideas, suggested a distinct mode of arrangement and invited our assent to it.

This plan, which probably originated elsewhere than at the Porte, was brought under the deliberation of the Five Representatives at two successive meetings, the one terminating in an agreement that each should draw up a reply to Cheik

Effendi; the second intended to afford an opportunity of comparing and assimilating the several replies, but leading to the relinquishment of this idea, and the adoption in its place of the accompanying memorandum signed and sent in to the Ottoman Minister separately by each Representative.

It was not till after we had made our respective replies and felt the difficulty of bringing them into harmony with each other, that our attention was called to the publication which became the more immediate cause of our ultimate decision.

The publication to which I allude, is an article in the "Journal de Constantinople," a French newspaper in Turkish pay. I have the honour to inclose it herewith.

Although it was agreed that the separate replies which we had read over in common should be cancelled with respect to the Porte, I transmit a copy of mine to your Lordship, conceiving that I cannot convey a clearer idea of my impressions whether as to the part which the Turkish authorities have taken in producing the present embarrassment, or as to the merits of the expedient announced in so extraordinary a manner by the Porte.

Of the replies prepared respectively by my colleagues, I know nothing beyond the first perception which I received from a single reading. It appeared to me that in general those of the French and Austrian Ministers corresponded with what I have stated before, exhibiting no marked difference except that the former, while admitting certain limitations of the Porte's proposal, was ready to accept the whole, and that the latter insisted upon similar limitations as necessary conditions of his acceptance. I observed also that M. de Butenval proposed the substitution of an appeal to the respective Kaimacams, and that the Internuncio opposed the suggestion which was rather abruptly withdrawn, though offering perhaps fewer grounds of objection than an appeal to the Pasha of Sidon.

The Russian and Prussian Envoys pursued nearly a similar course, of which the leading principle was acceptance under certain reserves and limitations.

These several shades of difference ultimately merged in the joint declaration already submitted to your Lordship's notice, and I should not omit that among the considerations which formed the main basis of our common position as to the necessity of rejecting the Porte's proposal, and of objecting to the arrangement in its present shape, without protesting expressly against the Porte's proceeding to carry it into effect on her own responsibility, was the palpable contradiction subsisting between the apparent meaning of Chekib Effendi's second communication and the explanation of its real purport as I received it from his Excellency through M. Pisani.

The accompanying extract of M. Pisani's report, preceded by the questions which I directed to be put to Chekib Effendi, may serve to place this part of the transaction in a clearer light.

I will not stop to comment upon the extreme inconvenience and embarrassment occasioned by the want of consistency and fair dealing which too often characterizes the conduct of the Turkish Ministers in their transactions with the Christian Powers. I hope that the sense of it, which I have joined with my colleagues in testifying on this occasion, will not be unproductive of good, and that further explanations offered in better spirit may yet lead to the adoption of some tentative plan to which I may be able to give a sanction, and which may be carried into effect with the joint concurrence of the Porte and of the Five Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 52

Collective Note of the Representatives of the Five Powers.

NOUS nous sommes réunis dans les intentions les plus bienveillantes tant pour la Porte que pour le Mont Liban, et, malgré les difficultés que le sujet présentait disposés dans une juste appréciation des sentiments que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse nous a témoignés, à énoncer notre avis amical sur les mesures proposées par le mémorandum de la Sublime Porte, lorsque nous avons

été frappés par les termes dont elle se sert dans la conclusion de cette pièce, termes qui sembleraient dénoter une résolution prise plutôt qu'un projet soumis à consultation ainsi que nous l'avions préjugé d'après la teneur de la première pièce. Cette impression s'est fortifiée par une circonstance accessoire que nous croyons devoir signaler à la Sublime Porte; l'insertion dans un journal imprimé à Constantinople d'un article quasi-officiel, où se trouve résumé le dispositif du mémorandum comme une décision du Gouvernement Ottoman; ce qui place les Représentans dans l'alternative embarrassante soit d'adhérer implicitement à toutes les propositions de la Porte, telles quelles; soit de se mettre vis-à-vis du public en contradiction avec le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse. La première de ces alternatives, qui nous serait sans doute la plus agréable, devient malheureusement impossible par l'absence de plus d'une clause additionnelle qui nous semblerait d'une stricte nécessité pour co-ordonner les mesures actuellement proposées au principe d'indépendance administrative de la Montagne qui a servi de base aux dispositions précédentes. L'autre alternative nous paraît le d'admettre l'action du Pacha de Saïda dans l'étendue qui lui est assignée par le mémorandum, ou d'aucune manière qui porterait préjudice au principe d'indépendance administrative susmentionné. Nous n'apercevons pas non plus dans le dit mémorandum les bases assez étendues et assez exactes sur lesquelles l'ensemble des privilèges locaux.

Dans ces conjonctures il ne nous reste plus qu'à informer nos Cours des résolutions qui viennent de nous être annoncées. En attendant il appartiendra aux Ministres de la Sublime Porte de peser l'urgence des circonstances, sans perdre de vue la gravité de leurs résolutions pour le bien-être des peuples que la paternelle sollicitude de Sa Hautesse a confiés à leurs soins.

Nous espérons que cette occasion sera prise pour attirer l'attention de la Sublime Porte sur les inconvénients dûs aux Maronites, indémunis dont nous considérons le paiement comme un acte de justice indispensable pour consolider la paix de la Montagne.

Inclosure 2 in No. 52.

Article from the "Journal de Constantinople."

AINSI que nous l'avons annoncé, la Sublime Porte ayant pris en sérieuse considération les humbles représentations des populations Chrétiennes du Liban, et ayant à cœur d'assurer la tranquillité et l'ordre dans ces contrées, vient de prendre une décision qui on le pense concilie tous les intérêts et résoud cette grave question d'une manière satisfaisante, en donnant une base solide et rationnelle à l'administration locale. En effet, au lieu de recourir à l'emploi de moyens coercitifs, comme elle était en droit de le faire, pour forcer les Maronites à accepter les Moukattajia Druses dans les villages mixtes, et afin d'éviter l'effusion du sang qui répugne au Gouvernement paternel de Sa Hautesse, la Sublime Porte, mue par les sentimens d'humanité et de justice que tout le monde lui connaît, et dans le but de consolider la paix et le bon ordre parmi les habitants du Liban, comme dans le reste de l'empire, en donnant une nouvelle preuve de son aversion pour les moyens violens, a jugé à propos, sur les rapports de ses agens en Syrie, de modifier l'ancien règlement adopté de concert avec les Cinq Grandes Puissances de la manière suivante.

Dans les villages mixtes, c'est à dire qui sont habités en même temps par des Druses et des Maronites, chacune de ces deux nations, outre les Moukattajia, nommera un Vékil pris dans son sein pour administrer ses propres affaires; ces Vékils relèveront immédiatement de son Excellence le Mouchir de Saïda, auquel ils devront avoir recours pour tout ce qui concernera leur administration. La mise en vigueur de ces dispositions, si elle est acceptée, n'éprouvera pas de difficulté, et aucune influence étrangère ne s'en mêle.

Cette décision fait le plus grand honneur à la sagesse de la Sublime Porte, et on a lieu d'espérer que le moyen qu'elle propose aux Représentans des Cinq Grandes Puissances Alliées pour mettre enfin un terme aux difficultés qui ont retardé jusqu'ici la solution de la question du Liban, est de nature à atteindre ce but en satisfaisant à toutes les exigences.

MM. les Représentans des Cinq Grandes Puissances, appelés à donner leur adhésion à ce projet, ont eu Mardi une conférence à ce sujet. Mais tout n'ayant pu être réglé dans une séance, on croit qu'il va y en avoir une autre ces jours-ci.

Aussitôt que la réponse de M.M. les Ambassadeurs aura été communiquée à la Sublime Porte, nous publierons *in extenso* la traduction du mémorandum dont nous venons de faire connaître la substance et que des motifs de haute convenance nous empêchent de donner jusqu'alors.

Inclosure 3 in No. 52.

Project of Answer to the Memorandum of the Porte on the Affairs of Mount Lebanon, submitted by Sir Straiford Canning to the Representatives of the four other Powers.

M. le Ministre.

VOUS m'avez fait l'honneur de demander mon opinion sur les affaires du Mont Liban, et de m'engager à l'enoncer d'une manière franche et amicale. La question qui devait en former l'objet est trop grave et trop épineuse pour ne pas me faire sentir toute l'importance de cette tâche. Votre Excellence a bien voulu s'adresser en ce point à des Représentans de l'Autriche, de France, de Prusse, et de Russie. Ils n'ont pas hésité à prendre leur part à la responsabilité commune; et à mesure que je m'éclaircissais de leurs sentimens j'ai plus d'espoir de rendre mon avis utile à la Porte. Nous parlons tous du même principe, nous visons tous au même but. Le principe c'est l'arrangement de l'année 1842; le but c'est la tranquillité du Mont Liban. Appuyée sur le pouvoir suprême du Sultan et sur le rétablissement des anciens privilèges, cette tranquillité doit être identique avec le bien-être permanent du pays. Si la prospérité de la Montagne avait besoin d'un garant de plus, on pourrait le trouver non seulement dans la sympathie des Grandes Puissances Alliées de la Turquie, mais encore dans les paroles pleines d'humanité et de bienveillance que portent les dernières communications de votre Excellence à ce sujet. J'attache d'autant plus de prix à ces paroles que les efforts que les chrétiens ont faits pour empêcher d'avoir lieu de nombreux motifs de regrets. Oui, la franchise amicale, l'amour de la vérité, m'imposent le devoir de ne rien cacher dans cette circonstance. Je dois avouer ma conviction qu'une marche plus assurée, une conduite moins inconséquente de la part des autorités locales, auraient écarté tous les obstacles qu'on a dû prévoir dès le principe, et n'auraient pas ouvert la porte à une complication hérissée d'embarras et de dangers. Rien de plus clair que le chemin qu'elles avaient à suivre; rien de plus sûr que le résultat de leurs opérations, lesquelles prenaient pour guides la fermeté, la bienveillance et la bonne foi. Il s'agissait de donner effet à un arrangement convenu entre la Porte et les Puissances. L'exécution de ce plan devait nécessairement entraîner

trousser quelques intérêts, à blesser quelques amours-propres : c'est une suite inévitable de l'imperfection qui règne dans les affaires humaines. La Porte, il est juste de le dire, a fait plus d'un effort et plus d'un sacrifice pour alléger le poids de cet inconvénient. La portion très considérable des indemnités dont elle a bien voulu se charger, les garanties qu'elle a offertes à la population des districts mixtes, la promesse qu'elle a donnée de ne plus exposer les habitans du Liban à la violence d'une soldatesque indisciplinée, en fournissent les preuves les moins équivoques. A présent même que les hauts fonctionnaires chérifiens ont été chargés de veiller sur les intérêts du peuple et de faire respecter l'autorité suprême dans l'intérêt du Souverain, en ont référé de nouveau au Divan Impérial la Porte fait manifester par l'organe de votre Excellence son désir de remédier jusqu'à la dernière des plaintes énoncées par une fraction quelconque de ses sujets du Mont Liban, avant que d'ordonner en définitif les seules mesures capables de faire cesser un état d'incertitude dont la prolongation menace de compromettre tous les intérêts.

Il me serait bien pénible de ne pas rendre justice à l'esprit qui domine dans cette pensée. La Porte, en déclarant sa répugnance à risquer l'effusion du

sang à moins que d'y être forcée par une nécessité positive, est sûre d'acquiescer à la sympathie des Puissances Chrétiennes, qui ne manqueront non plus d'applaudir aux intentions bienveillantes réitérées par la Porte au sujet des indemnités et des autres points essentiels à l'accomplissement de leurs vœux.

Ce qui exige maintenant une attention spéciale, c'est la proposition que votre Excellence vient de me communiquer en réponse à l'interpellation que j'ai eu l'honneur de lui adresser de concert avec mes collègues. Cette proposition, si j'en ai bien saisi la portée, doit mettre le complément aux mesures dont l'ensemble n'est autre chose que l'exécution du plan arrêté en 1842. Envisagée dans ce point de vue et ayant pour but la protection de ceux qu'on serait heureux de contenter par tout moyen compatible avec les principes consacrés et les droits d'autrui, elle mérite l'examen le plus impartial et le plus consciencieux. Elle méritait d'avance toute la considération attachée à ce qui émane d'une Puissance souveraine et amie.

La proposition dont il s'agit se compose de trois parties : la nomination d'un Vakil dans chaque village, de dix à quinze textes, la prohibition d'aller à ces Vékils, et le recours au Pacha de Saida. Le nombre auquel on propose de porter les Vékils, les attributions à ceux d'un côté, les pouvoirs réservés, pour peu que la mode de nomination soit convenable, et les pouvoirs sévèrement définis, ne me semblent pas offrir de graves difficultés. Je ne vois rien de ce côté-là qui pèche, soit en fait de principe, soit en fait de droit. L'exécution en serait plus ou moins imparfaite et le résultat plus ou moins douteux ; mais l'incertitude du succès pourrait trouver un contrepois dans l'importance de l'objet.

Portant la vue sur les autres éléments de la mesure en question, je suis frappé d'objections infiniment plus sévères.

En premier lieu je vois les privilèges des propriétaires féodaux, soit Chrétiens, soit Druses, diminués de plus de la moitié. Ces privilèges, malgré le jugement qu'on pourrait former de leur mérite, sont consacrés non seulement par une antique succession, mais aussi par les promesses dont plus d'une Puissance s'est rendue garante en 1840 envers les habitants de la Montagne, dignes par leur loyauté de la bienveillance reconnaissante de leur Gouvernement. Serait-il juste de leur enlever ces privilèges sans leur en donner d'autres en compensation ? Serait-il prudent de donner à la partie la plus guerrière de la population du Liban un motif de mécontentement, dont l'irritation pourrait causer de nouveaux troubles dans le pays, et peut-être même une effusion de sang inutile, que tout le monde s'accorderait à avoir en horreur ?

En second lieu, je suis obligé à me demander comment on pourra concilier le recours au Pacha de Saïda avec l'administration exclusive de la Montagne exercée de tout temps par ses habitants. L'appel au commandant des forces Ottomanes à Deir-el-Kamar ne saurait servir de précédent. C'est une ressource temporaire que cet arrangement, comme c'est aussi la présence d'une force militaire au centre de la Montagne. Le recours au Pacha de Saïda serait une mesure établie dont la permanence serait en contradiction avec la base de tout ce qui a été adopté de commun accord jusqu'ici. Il est vrai que l'on pourrait en diminuer les inconvénients par des réserves et des limitations faciles à concevoir, mais de tels garans, tous dignes de considération, tous nécessaires qu'ils pourraient être, ne remédieraient jamais au vice enraciné dans le principe, tandis qu'ils formeraient une nouvelle complication d'elle-même peu désirable.

C'est bien malgré moi que je soumetts ces observations au jugement éclairé de votre Excellence. Il me serait plus agréable de ne voir dans l'idée de la Porte que des facilités propres à calmer les passions et à mettre un terme aux inquiétudes du Mont Liban. Mais j'ai un devoir à remplir. La Porte par le canal de votre Excellence me l'a imposé elle-même. En prenant ma conscience pour guide je suis sûr de ne pas trahir la confiance que la Porte a bien voulu témoigner au représentant d'une Cour amie. Si mon jugement était en erreur, et je n'ose pas en garantir l'exactitude, le tems ne manquerait pas d'en faire justice, ou de meilleurs conseils apporteraient un remède plus prompt.

Il se peut enfin qu'un tribunal d'appel formé de plusieurs Vekils réunis, présenterait un moyen compliqué plutôt que vraiment difficile de réaliser substantivement l'idée de la Porte, sans violer les principes du plan convenu et sans porter atteinte aux droits des Moukatadjis.

Dans tous les cas j'espère avoir manifesté mon sincère désir de consulter les véritables intérêts de la Porte dans cette grave circonstance.

Je me serais exprimé avec plus d'assurance si j'avais été à même de m'appuyer sur l'opinion d'un homme d'adresse spécialement à la connaissance de l'Empire Ottoman est plus à portée que tout autre de savoir si l'urgence des affaires permettait le délai nécessaire pour suppléer à ce défaut. Dans un sens personnel, je ne pourrais qu'y voir un grand soulagement. L'estimation de l'avantage politique qui pourrait en résulter est plutôt du ressort de la Porte.

Enfin ce que votre Excellence observe relativement aux Consuls est digne d'une attention particulière. L'intérêt qu'ils doivent porter aux affaires de la Montagne est évident, mais il ne faut pas qu'il dépasse les limites de leur compétence. Au reste, c'est dans la sagesse de ses propres actions que la Porte trouverait un meilleur remède contre toute ingérence étrangère.

Inclosure 4 in No. 52.

Questions put by M. Pisani to Chekib Effendi, and M. Pisani's Report

1. ARE there to be separate Vakeels for the Maronites and the Druses in each village of the Mont Liban?

2. To what extent are these Vakeels to exercise jurisdiction over their people, and when would a recourse to the authority of the Pacha of Sidon be necessary?

3. In what manner will the jurisdiction exercised by the Vakeels interfere with the jurisdiction appertaining to the Pacha of Sidon and the respective Moukatsadjis?

Réponses de M. Pisani.

J'ai demandé à Chékib Effendi les trois explications sur le memorandum relatif au Mont Liban. Après avoir lu le memorandum, il m'a dit qu'il y aura deux Vékils dans chaque village mixte. Mais je vais, dit-il, consulter l'Amedgi qui connaît cette affaire mieux que moi. L'Amedgi consulte a avoué que ce passage devrait être plus clair, mais voici, dit-il, le fait. Il y aura un Vékil Maronite pour les Maronites dans un village mixte qui se trouve dans la partie du Mont Liban soumise à la juridiction du Kaimacam Druse, et dans lequel il y aura un Moukatsadj Druse. Il y aura un Vékil Druse pour les Druses dans un village mixte qui se trouve dans la partie du Mont Liban soumise au Kaimacam Maronite, et dans lequel il y aura un Moukatsadj Maronite.

Les Vékils respectifs auront à recourir au Moukatsadj de Saïda dans les affaires qui leur seront soumises, et les affaires d'une nature grave, qui ne pourront pas être arrangées eux-mêmes.

Le Vékil Maronite exercera sa juridiction sur tous les Maronites de son village, et le Moukatsadj Druse exercera sa juridiction sur eux, et de même le Vékil Druse exercera sa juridiction sur tous les Druses de son village, sans que le Moukatsadj Maronite exerce aucune juridiction sur eux.

No. 53

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 20.)

(No. 38.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, February 26, 1845

I AVAIL myself of the Austrian post to forward the accompanying translation of a memorandum relating to Mount Lebanon which I have just received from the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Not having yet had time to communicate respecting it either with my colleagues or with Chekib Effendi, I abstain for the present from offering any remarks upon its merits.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 53

Memorandum addressed by Chekib Effendi to the Representatives of the Five Powers, February 24, 1845

(Traduction.)

NOUS avons pris dûment connaissance du contenu des lettres que votre Excellence et vos collègues viennent de nous envoyer en réponse au memorandum officiel qui a été transmis dernièrement tant à votre Excellence qu'à vos collègues MM. les Représentants des autres Grandes Puissances, relativement à la question du Mont Liban. Ainsi que l'importance actuelle de cette question l'exige, il a été jugé nécessaire de répondre de nouveau, en donnant les éclaircissements nécessaires sur les intentions de la Sublime Porte pour en venir à un arrangement définitivement arrêté; car si d'un côté la volonté pleine d'équité de Sa Hautesse est que les moyens propres à assurer complètement la tranquillité du Mont Liban soient employés un moment plutôt, de l'autre côté aussi c'est là tout le but que les Grandes Puissances amies bienveillantes de la Sublime Porte se proposent. Aussi MM. les Représentants ont-ils engagé la Sublime Porte à faire connaître quels étaient à son avis les moyens les plus convenables d'arranger les affaires de la Montagne et d'y rétablir la tranquillité.

Comme la Sublime Porte apprécie les suggestions et les conseils bienveillants qui viennent de la part de MM. les Représentants, ses Ministres ont réfléchi sur les moyens les plus propres à faire sortir l'administration de la Montagne de cet état de confusion dans lequel elle se trouve, et le plan ayant été soumis à l'approbation du Sultan, il s'est trouvé être conforme aux sentimens pleins d'équité de Sa Hautesse. Et comme il ne sera pas possible de trouver un autre moyen plus propre que celui-là à produire l'effet désiré, et que pour cette raison il était certain que cette résolution de la Sublime Porte sera appréciée par les Grandes Puissances, on vous a informé comme on a aussi informé vos collègues que le présent plan était un parti pris par la Sublime Porte.

Tandis que nous étions dans l'attente que votre Excellence ainsi que vos collègues donneraient à la résolution de la Sublime Porte leur assentiment plein et absolu, certain embarras dans leur manière de voir a empêché l'expression de leur assentiment. Etant toutefois clair qu'en écartant quelques soupçons et quelques doutes qui se sont élevés, on obtiendra l'adhésion désirée à la résolution et aux projets de la Sublime Porte, c'est avec bien de plaisir que nous nous exprimons de vous rassurer là-dessus.

Nous disons donc que la sphère de l'autorité du Pacha de Saïda sur les Vékils qui seront établis dans les villages mixtes ne s'étendra pas au-delà de la faculté de juger et de décider les cas difficiles dans les différends qui surviendraient entre les deux nations, et qui ne pourront pas être aplaisés, le Pacha étant celui à qui on devra recourir en ces occasions; son autorité est bornée, elle ne devra pas s'ingérer, excepté dans les cas ci-dessus, dans l'administration qui est particulière à eux. La Sublime Porte n'a absolument aucune volonté, aucune intention de supprimer les Moukatsadjis, ni de ne pas maintenir les privilèges locaux que les habitants de la Montagne ont dernièrement obtenus de Sa Hautesse. Il est positif que la Sublime Porte mettra toute sa sollicitude à prendre des mesures pour qu'aussitôt après que la question de l'administration aura été arrangée d'une manière complète, les indemnités qui sont dues aux Maronites leur soient payées un moment plutôt et de la manière qui a été fixée.

Les véritables et excellentes intentions de la Sublime Porte une fois connues, il n'y aura plus de retard, de difficulté dans les opinions, il n'y aura plus d'obstacle capable de faire différer la mise à exécution des résolutions que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse a prises pour que la tranquillité de la Montagne soit établie de manière à ne laisser rien à désirer.

Et comme on a fait aux Ministres de la Sublime Porte un devoir de peser l'urgence des circonstances et de songer à l'importance de leurs résolutions; que les dépêches officielles arrivées tout récemment de la Syrie ont fait apprécier de plus en plus l'importance des dernières décisions de la Sublime Porte à l'égard de la Montagne; que, démontrant l'urgence des circonstances, ces dépêches font voir la nécessité de les mettre à exécution promptement; les Ministres de Sa Hautesse se glorifient de ce que les intentions paternelles et pleines de clémence que Sa Majesté Impériale a témoignées par la résolution de la Sublime Porte sont con-

formes aux exigences du temps et des lieux, et ils se flattent que les doutes élevés une fois dissipés par les éclaircissements données comme ci-dessus ces résolutions de la Sublime Porte seront également appréciées par les Grandes Puissances. Les Ministres de la Sublime Porte espèrent en même temps, ils sont sûrs, à juger des traits et des sentiments bienveillants que votre Excellence et vos collègues les autres Représentans témoignent à l'égard de la Sublime Porte, qu'appréciant les résolutions de la Sublime Porte, ils seront les premiers d'en faire l'éloge, et s'empressent de convenir de la nécessité de les mettre à exécution sans aucun délai.

No. 54.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 30)

(No. 51.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 6, 1845.

I HAD the honour to transmit to your Lordship in copy, with my No. 38, of the 26th ultimo, a third memorandum from the Porte relating to the affairs of Mount Lebanon. Your Lordship will have observed that without departing from its former proposal respecting the judicial administration of the mixed districts by means of an increased number of Vakeels and an eventual reference to the Pasha of Sidon, the Porte has given explicit and satisfactory assurances upon the three points to which in concert with my colleagues I had drawn its particular attention. The measures themselves were announced as having received the Sultan's approval, and being in fact definitively adopted with a view to their immediate execution.

Looking to Syria it is evident that the local state of affairs, particularly in Mount Lebanon, is extremely precarious. Whether the excitement prevailing in the latter district be attributable to intrigue, to well-founded apprehension, or to both causes at once, it is equally a source of danger to the public tranquillity. That danger, which at one time appeared to be distant and contingent, has now assumed a more threatening form, and according to the latest advices from Beyrout and Damascus, little would suffice to occasion fresh scenes of violence in the country. Unfortunately the Turkish authorities on one side, and the agents of some foreign Powers on the other, have found an interest in cherishing the seeds of discord between the Druses and Maronites, and in postponing the final settlement of the Mountain on any other terms but their own.

Such are the principal circumstances under which I have had to consider what answer it would be most advisable to return to the Porte, and what course of proceeding it would be proper for me to adopt towards my colleagues.

With respect to my answer I naturally sought for a guide in your Lordship's instructions taken in connexion with the necessities of the case. The instructions provide for two several contingencies; resistance offered by any class of the natives of Mount Lebanon to the legal authorities engaged in carrying into effect the arrangement of 1842, and the formation of a new system of administration, supposing the present one, after a fair practical trial, to have failed. A firm perseverance in executing the plan already laid down, notwithstanding the objections, real or imaginary, of part of the Maronite population, was rendered impossible by the interested vacillation of the Turkish authorities. The arrangement of 1842 having never been carried into effect or even made the object of a resolute attempt for that purpose, it cannot be justly said to have had any trial at all, and we are not therefore arrived at the point eventually provided for of substituting one system for another. The measures now adopted by the Porte are rather means for completing the execution of the original plan, and therefore it is only in a secondary degree that they fall within the range of your Lordship's instructions. Had they appeared to me unexceptionable in all important respects, I should have felt myself at liberty to accept them without reserve, and to encourage the Porte to hasten the moment of their execution. But in one essential point they are at variance with the principle and spirit of the existing arrangement. In more than one respect they present very doubtful chances of success.

It cannot be denied that a power of deciding important differences between the Druses and the Maronites of the mixed districts, when vested in the Pasha

of Sidon, amounts to an interference with the internal administration of the Mountain. No such power existed under the old Government, and the arrangement of 1842 was intended to redeem the pledge given two years before by British agents speaking for the Porte; a pledge which involved the restoration of all the ancient privileges, together with the Sultan's supremacy. When to this defect in principle is added the opportunity afforded to the Turkish Pasha of operating on the passions and interests of the adverse classes, through a swarm of petty native agents, of fomenting their mutual animosities and multiplying the occasions of his interference, and when the many indications of an encroaching policy on his side are also taken into consideration, there is but too much reason to look rather to the results of the plan, than to the assurances of the Porte for motives to receive it with approbation and confidence.

Nor is there much consolation in reflecting that while the Porte may be fairly suspected of having in view the eventual exercise of a more complete authority in Mountain Lebanon, there are others who might be equally reconciled to the prospect of fresh disorders in the country by the hope of restoring the Shehab family to power, or providing in some way for an extension of their own separate influence.

From these various circumstances and considerations, coupled with the declaration of the Porte that some new measures were indispensably requisite to maintain tranquillity under the present system of administration without a revolting effusion of blood, it clearly results that I had but one answer to make to Cheikib Effendi's third and last memorandum,—an answer which would leave the Porte to act upon its own responsibility, under an implied reserve of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government, accompanied with a distinct notice and cordial acknowledgment of the benevolent intentions announced in the Sultan's name.

I have now to make a short statement respecting my colleagues. As they were not likely to adopt the exact line which I thought it an essential part of my duty to pursue, I was averse to risking an exposure of our differences by a meeting which would attract public attention, and probably terminate abortively. Previous experience had confirmed me in the impression that on this subject at least a conference presented objections which it required the force of some special reason to remove, and in this instance it appeared to me that the special reason could not be found in the general interests. I therefore made up my mind to propose that each Representative should send in a separate answer; and in order to effect as near an approximation as possible, I at once communicated the draft of my reply, by means of Mr. Wellesley, to my four colleagues, expressing at the same time a readiness to consider any modifications consistent with the general sense of the paper which they might choose to suggest. This endeavour was not successful, and after adapting my note as far as I could with consistency to what I understood to be the drift of their remarks, I proposed the alternative of either taking it as the substance of our common reply to Cheikib Effendi, or of confining ourselves to a verbal message, acknowledging the receipt of his Excellency's memorandum, and referring to our previous communication already transmitted to the respective Courts. Neither of these propositions was accepted, and nothing remained but that each of us should send in a reply on his own individual responsibility, and that an interchange in copy of the several replies should be made amongst us afterwards. It was with some degree of satisfaction that I received at last from three of my colleagues an admission that nothing in my note appeared to them objectionable; and I am willing to hope that in drawing up their respective answers they have been careful, while preserving their own phraseology, to avoid any marked divergence from the general substance of my observations.

Even Count Stürmer, who has long shown a peculiar dislike to the arrangement of 1842, will hardly venture to express his approbation of the Porte's supplementary measures so distinctly as to leave no loophole for his Government, should circumstances eventually call for the expression of other sentiments from the Five Powers.

There is nevertheless little reason to doubt that the Porte will proceed at once to carry the new measures into execution, and I presume that the most prudent course for Colonel Rose to pursue, should that anticipation prove correct, will be to give an example of forbearance to his colleagues, and to abstain altogether from interfering with the operations of the Turkish authorities.

A copy of my answer to Cheikib Effendi is herewith inclosed.

I cannot conceal from your Lordship that I should have been more gratified in the absence of any proposal to which I could give my unqualified assent, if the execution of the adopted measures had been distinctly reserved for the opinion of the Five Powers. The success of the experiment is at best problematical. Supposing the Porte to be sincere the partisans of the Shehab family will not be satisfied and the latest advices from Beyrout announce the existence of an extensive organisation in support of that interest. It looks very much as if the general welfare of the Mount Lebanon in so far as the inhabitants attach any importance to the exclusion of the Turks from their system of administration, has been risked by those who profess to take the liveliest interest in their fate, for the sake of obtaining a partial advantage in favour of a fragment of the Christian population.

At all events, an appearance of unanimity among the Representatives of the Five Powers has been maintained in the public eye, and Her Majesty's Government are relieved from the obligation of interfering, while they are neither committed to an approbation of doubtful measures, nor chargeable with indifference to the welfare of any class of a population so long the object of their solicitude and benevolent exertions.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 54

Note from Sir Stratford Canning to Chakib Effendi.

LES intentions bienveillantes des années de nouveau au nom de Sa Hautesse en faveur des habitants du Mont Liban ne manquent pas d'être agréables aux Puissances qui s'intéressent à leur sort. Je reçois les explications satisfaisantes données par son Excellence le Ministre Ottoman, que la Sublime Porte veut continuer aux régions l'administration intérieure de la Montagne qu'elle promet de maintenir les provinces libanaise et notamment ceux des Moukatalifa et Hamaïm au cas où elle a à payer de la manière qui a été fixée, le montant des contributions assignées aux Maronites.

C'est avec une vive satisfaction que je transmets à ma Cour ces nouveaux gages du bien-être futur des diverses populations qui ont donné des preuves non-équivoques de leur dévouement au Sultan.

Quant à l'opération des mesures destinées à compléter l'exécution du plan qui fut adopté en 1842, je me rapporte aux remarques que d'accord avec mes collègues j'ai dû à l'honneur de présenter à la Sublime Porte. Les conséquences éventuelles du recours au l'Acad de Saida, et toute contrainte que les mesures annoncées pourraient entraîner, soit au principe soit au but du susdit arrangement, ne sauraient être indifférentes ni à la Porte ni à ma Cour.

Pera de Constantinople 5 Mars, 1845.

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 55.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 52.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 6, 1845.

It is rather singular that while the partisans of the Shehab interest are strenuously employed in the promotion of their favourite object, the restoration of that family to the Government of Mount Lebanon, the members of the family residing here are showing their fitness for ruling over Christians by abjuring the Christian creed and accepting that of Mahomet. A grandson of the old Emir Desour turned Turk some months ago; and within the last few days his example has been followed by the Emir Emu, eldest son of the same patriarch, and the very prince to whom the suffrages of all the Powers would probably have been given, if the Porte had not decided on the permanent exclusion of the whole family from power.

I am informed that the ex-Emir Beshir is preparing a memorial for the Representatives of the Five Powers, complaining of his detention at Constantinople, and soliciting their good offices in order to obtain permission for him to return to Syria.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No 56

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received March 30.)

(No. 53. Confidential.)

Constantinople, March 6, 1845

My Lord,

THE copies inclosed herewith of the notes respectively addressed to Chakib Effendi by the Austrian, Russian, French, and Prussian Representatives in reply to his Excellency's last communication on the subject of Mount Lebanon, will put your Lordship in possession of the exact terms employed on the occasion by each of them. It was agreed that the information which has thus taken place of our several replies, should be of a confidential character.

I lament to say that in the course of the late proceedings more than one instance of a miserable spirit of intrigue has occurred. It may suffice to mention that in determining to apply to the Porte for an explanation of its own views, the Five Representatives agreed to confine themselves strictly to that inquiry in its simplest form. I have nevertheless received information which I believe to be correct, that the Internuncio, in concert with the French Chargé d'Affaires, suggested in secret the arrangement which Chakib Effendi subsequently announced as a measure adopted by the Porte in consequence of fresh advices from Beyrout.

I regret that these circumstances occur only in order to apprise your Lordship of the difficulties which I have experienced in acting with some of my colleagues, but more particularly for the purpose of drawing attention to the importance of making any future instructions under which we may be called upon to act together so binding on all, as to make it a matter of serious responsibility to resort to separate intrigue and underhand play. A precaution of this kind is more necessary here than at any other Court, in consequence of the facilities afforded to an intriguing disposition by the peculiarities of the place.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING

Inclosure 1 in No 56

Note from the Internuncio to the Porte

Constantinople, le 5 Mars, 1845

LE nouveau memorandum que la Sublime Porte vient de me faire l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 17 Safer (24 Février) relativement aux affaires du Liban, complète les explications dans lesquelles elle était entrée précédemment. Les intentions bienveillantes de Sa Hautesse à l'égard des populations du Liban, et notamment des Chrétiens, dont le sort ne cessera d'être l'objet de la sollicitude de l'Europe.

Mon Auguste Cour, à qui je me suis empressé d'en faire part, approuvera vivement, je n'en doute pas, aux sentiments généreux qui ont dicté les résolutions du Sultan. Inspirées comme elles le sont par son désir sincère d'assurer à tous ses sujets indistinctement les bienfaits d'un Gouvernement doux et paternel et de faire triompher ainsi sur tous les points de son vaste empire les principes de justice et d'humanité, nous devons espérer qu'elles auront le succès que Sa Hautesse s'en promet.

Des-lors, les vœux des Puissances amies de la Sublime Porte seront comblés, et il ne leur restera plus d'autre tâche à remplir vis-à-vis d'elle que de l'en féliciter sincèrement.

(Signé) STURMER

Inclosure 2 in No. 56

Note from the Russian Minister to the Porte.

Péra, le 17 Mars 1845.

C'EST avec un juste intérêt que j'ai pris connaissance des éclaircissements sur les affaires que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu m'adresser par son memorandum du 7 Mars 24 Février, concernant les mesures qu'elle avait prises pour assurer le repos du Mont Liban, ainsi que le bien-être et les privilèges locaux des diverses populations qui l'habitent. Je ne puis qu'applaudir pour ce qui me regarde aux intentions bienveillantes du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, et je n'ai pas manqué de porter le contenu du dit memorandum à la connaissance de mon Auguste Cour. Ayant accordé dans le tems son suffrage amical au système convenu pour le régime intérieur de la Montagne en 1842, le Cabinet Impérial ne peut sans doute s'empêcher avec le même esprit d'impartialité et de bien vouloir de reconnaître les avantages de ce système, et se féliciter si le résultat que s'en promet la Porte répond aux sentimens paternels de Sa Hautesse en même tems qu'aux vœux et à l'attente unanime des Puissances amies.

(Signé) BOUTENEFF

Inclosure 3 in No. 56.

Note from the Prussian Chargé d'Affaires to the Porte.

Péra, ce 6 Mars 1845.

J'AI eu l'honneur de recevoir le memorandum que la Sublime Porte a bien voulu m'adresser en date du 7 Mars 24 Février, pour me faire connaître les mesures qu'elle avait prises pour assurer le repos du Mont Liban, ainsi que le bien-être et les privilèges locaux des diverses populations qui l'habitent. Je ne puis qu'applaudir pour ce qui me regarde aux intentions bienveillantes du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, et je n'ai pas manqué de porter le contenu du dit memorandum à la connaissance de mon Auguste Cour. Ayant accordé dans le tems son suffrage amical au système convenu pour le régime intérieur de la Montagne en 1842, le Cabinet Impérial ne peut sans doute s'empêcher avec le même esprit d'impartialité et de bien vouloir de reconnaître les avantages de ce système, et se féliciter si le résultat que s'en promet la Porte répond aux sentimens paternels de Sa Hautesse en même tems qu'aux vœux et à l'attente unanime des Puissances amies.

L'amitié vive et sincère que les Grandes Puissances Européennes portent à l'Empire Ottoman, et la part bienveillante qu'elles prennent au sort des habitants du Liban, garantissent d'avance l'intérêt avec lequel elles accueilleront les éclaircissements que le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse leur adressera sur la marche de la Sublime Porte se propose de suivre pour assurer le repos et le bien-être de la Montagne. Je ne puis qu'applaudir pour ce qui me regarde aux intentions bienveillantes du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, et je n'ai pas manqué de porter le contenu du dit memorandum à la connaissance de mon Auguste Cour. Ayant accordé dans le tems son suffrage amical au système convenu pour le régime intérieur de la Montagne en 1842, le Cabinet Impérial ne peut sans doute s'empêcher avec le même esprit d'impartialité et de bien vouloir de reconnaître les avantages de ce système, et se féliciter si le résultat que s'en promet la Porte répond aux sentimens paternels de Sa Hautesse en même tems qu'aux vœux et à l'attente unanime des Puissances amies.

(Signé) LE COQ.

Inclosure 4 in No. 56.

Note from the French Chargé d'Affaires to the Porte.

Constantinople, 5 Mars 1845.

J'AI reçu et je me suis empressé de transmettre à mon Gouvernement le document que la Sublime Porte m'a fait l'honneur de m'adresser en date du 24 Février dernier pour compléter les éclaircissements demandés par mes collègues et moi au sujet des mesures récemment adoptées par le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse relativement à l'organisation des districts à population mixte du Mont Liban. Ces éclaircissements répondent au sentiment qui a inspiré mes précédentes communications, et écartent les doutes qu'il avait été de mon devoir de présenter de concert avec les Représentans des Hautes Cours Alliées. La Sublime Porte reconnaissant de nouveau et d'une manière formelle le principe de la dépendance administrative et du maintien des franchises de la Montagne sous la tutelle souveraine de Sa Hautesse, puis par conséquent par le passé et irrévocablement acquis à l'avenir, déclare qu'il n'y a jamais eu, dans sa pensée de porter

atteinte à l'indépendance non plus qu'aux privilèges des populations du Mont Liban, et qu'il n'y a eu aucune intervention de la Sublime Porte dans les affaires de conflit, inconciliable par toute autre voie, entre les deux races Maronite et Druse. La Sublime Porte ajoute que le premier soin des autorités nouvelles une fois constituées, sera d'aviser au moyen d'effectuer immédiatement le paiement de l'indemnité due aux Chrétiens.

Ces explications, si franches et si positives, notamment en ce qui touche le mode d'application d'une idée sur le principe même de laquelle la décision déjà arrêtée de Sa Hautesse a dû nous imposer une respectueuse réserve et dont la pratique seule peut désormais constater la valeur, le recours éventuel au Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse, seroit, j'ajoute à en concevoir et à en exprimer l'espoir, hautement appréciées par le Gouvernement du Roi. Je n'ai donc plus qu'à rendre hommage aux intentions manifestées par la Sublime Porte, et à lui faire passer ces vœux personnels pour que l'arrangement de 1842, qui a été remis à des mains sages et prudentes, vienne bientôt témoigner de la sagesse des vues des Ministres de Sa Hautesse, et apprendre à l'Europe jusque là dans l'attente que le repos des races Chrétiennes, objet de notre incessante sollicitude, est désormais assuré.

(Signé) BUTENVAL.

No 57

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen — (Received April 4.)

No 63.

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 17, 1845

NOTWITHSTANDING my expectation that the Porte would proceed to carry into immediate effect the measures announced by Cheik Effendi for the definitive settlement of affairs in Mount Lebanon, it would seem that by reason of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government and of the inclination of my Lord, my view of the matter has been altered. I have therefore to inform you that I have been instructed by the British Government to inform the Porte that the British Government is not prepared to support the measures proposed by the Porte for the settlement of affairs in Mount Lebanon, and that the British Government is not prepared to support the measures proposed by the Porte for the settlement of affairs in Mount Lebanon. I have therefore to inform you that I have been instructed by the British Government to inform the Porte that the British Government is not prepared to support the measures proposed by the Porte for the settlement of affairs in Mount Lebanon, and that the British Government is not prepared to support the measures proposed by the Porte for the settlement of affairs in Mount Lebanon.

The Government subsequently taken the same view of the matter as Cheik Effendi, an additional note was addressed to the Porte, and of this paper I have the honour to inclose a copy herewith.

I have not yet returned any official answer, nor have I had an opportunity of learning the impression produced upon my colleagues by its contents. I do not however see what reasonable objection they could make to it, proceeding as it does from the Porte, and infringing on no right, principle or agreement to which their Courts are pledged.

I have therefore not hesitated to transmit it to Colonel Rose with an instruction of which a copy is herewith inclosed for your Lordship's information.

To the explanations contained in that instruction I have little to add. It has been my constant object to preserve if possible the arrangement of 1842 for a fair trial, which it has not yet experienced, to maintain the principle of an

exclusive internal administration for the benefit of all classes in the Mountain, and to spare Her Majesty's Government the painful necessity of going prematurely into a fresh discussion upon the subject with the four other Cabinets.

I hope and indeed believe, in so far as belief may be applied to any Eastern transaction not positively executed, that for the time at least the measures of the Porte as now modified will succeed. But considering what may be fairly ascribed to the Porte as its eventual aim, and the too much countenanced and assisted activity of the Shehab party, it is difficult to reckon with confidence on the permanent tranquillity of Mount Lebanon. An interval of quiet with the introduction of a certain degree of regularity into the administration are all that it would be prudent to expect; and if I may be allowed to express myself without reserve, I would submit to your Lordship the expediency of making without delay in some convenient form such a declaration of the sentiments of Her Majesty's Government as may discourage those practices of intrigue and clandestine support which it is evident from Colonel Rose's accounts have been so liberally employed of late for the encouragement of party zeal and insubordination in the Mountain.

Aware of the very abundant information which Colonel Rose never fails to transmit to your Lordship, I conceive that it would generally be superfluous to forward copies of his reports to me. On the present occasion however for more convenient reference, I inclose an extract of one of his last despatches relating to the intrigues practised in Mount Lebanon, and the sources whence money supplied to promote them has been derived.

I have, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 57

Final Memorandum addressed to the Representatives of the Five Powers,
March 16, 1845.

(Traduction.)

LA Sublime Porte a pris connaissance de contenu du memorandum qu'elle a reçu de votre part ainsi que de celle de MM. les Représentans vos collègues, en réponse au memorandum explicatif qui vous a été remis en dernier lieu, relativement à la décision de l'affaire du Mont Liban.

Après avoir examiné ces deux documents, les Représentans ont motivé quelques dispositions de la susdite décision, et elle a approuvé les excellens sentimens et les véritables intentions que la Sublime Porte a manifesté dans cette affaire.

Les mémorandums ainsi que le projet d'instructions à expédier aux autorités Ottomannes ont été mis sous les yeux du Sultan. Sa Hautesse après en avoir pris connaissance, a pensé d'elle-même que puisque conformément à ce qui avait été arrêté par le passé, les Kaimacams qui ont été nommés pour les deux nations qui se trouvent dans la Montagne, sont sous l'inspection du Moukhir de Saïda, l'embaras pour les Moukatadjs et les Vékils qui ont été nommés dans les villages mixtes de la Montagne, de recourir au besoin et d'eux-mêmes au Moukhir de Saïda, n'est point nécessaire; d'autant plus que cela peut probablement entraver la bonne administration du Mont Liban, à laquelle la Sublime Porte prend un grand intérêt. Sa Hautesse, uniquement pour donner une nouvelle preuve de ses bonnes intentions et de ses sentimens pleins de bienveillance envers tous les sujets de son empire, et de son désir d'assurer leur bien-être, a préié cette disposition-ci, à savoir, que les Moukatadjs et les Vékils recourent, lorsque cela sera nécessaire, directement aux Kaimacams de leur nation; elle a déclaré sa volonté à cet égard, et donné ses ordres en conséquence.

Les Ministres de la Sublime Porte sont glorie de vous annoncer cette disposition. Ils ont l'assurance que votre Excellence ainsi que ses collègues y verront une nouvelle preuve de la droiture des intentions de la Sublime Porte, et du grand cas qu'elle fait de la conduite bienveillante des Cinq Grandes Puissances qui désirent la tranquillité générale.

J'ai aussi l'honneur de vous prévenir que les instructions nécessaires sur ces affaires seront expédiées aux autorités de la Sublime Porte demain.

Le 7 Rebi-ul-Ekel, 1261.

Inclosure 2 in No. 57.

Sir Stratford Canning to Colonel Rose.

Sir,

Constantinople, March 17, 1845.

I HAVE the satisfaction to inform you that the Porte has renounced the objectionable part of its intended arrangement for the administration of the mixed districts of Mount Lebanon, and instead of an eventual appeal in certain cases to the Pasha of Sidon, has adopted the more judicious expedient of a reference to the concurrent authority of the two Kaimacams. Herewith I transmit to you a copy of the note or memorandum by which this amendment has been communicated officially to me and my colleagues by the Ottoman Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I am not yet apprized of the view which is taken of this measure by the other Representatives, but I avail myself of a Turkish express to inform you without delay, though separately, of so important a circumstance; and I trust that the means of carrying into full and immediate execution the arrangement adopted by common consent in 1842 may now be considered as complete. The enjoyment of an exclusive internal administration is thus secured to the inhabitants of Mount Lebanon, with the single temporary exception at Deir-el-Kamar of an eventual appeal to the Turkish Government in that neighbourhood; and several passages in your correspondence have removed from my mind every apprehension which I formerly entertained as to the maintenance of a suitable understanding between the two Kaimacams.

With respect to the Moukatadjs, it appears that their ancient privileges remain unaltered except as to the exercise of judicial authority in the mixed districts. Each Vakeel will be there invested with the power of judging alone in suits arising between individuals of his own creed and of judging conjointly with the Moukatadjs between Druze and Christian. The Vakeels are to be appointed by the Kaimacam of their own religion, from a list of two or three names selected in each village by the Kaimacam of the province. They would of course be discharged on account of any serious misconduct duly proved.

I am really not aware that anything remains to be added under the present circumstances. The arrangement now going into effect has the advantage of resting as to its main conducting point on the spontaneous conviction of the Turkish Government. They have now expressed so deep a sense of the importance which they attach to the concurrence of Great Britain in settling the affairs of Syria, that the instructions now sent to the Pashas of Bevelat are no doubt peremptory. It is difficult to imagine any reasonable grounds on which either our respective colleagues or any class of the natives of the Mountain could object to the present plan which is calculated to protect the Christians from injustice to maintain the Druzes in the enjoyment of their substantial privileges, to exclude any foreign influence on the part of any foreign Power and to the native clergy and to secure to all classes as much a share of material prosperity as their natural habits and national dispositions or past events will allow.

I am still of opinion that your most advisable course is also that of our colleagues will be to abstain from any interference with the execution of the arrangements so far as they are approved except when pressed by the Pashas themselves or by the Druzes, in the manner and at the time.

I am also consistent with the course recommended by your attention that you should bring the entire contents of this despatch confidentially to the knowledge of the Pashas and express to them your hope that the tranquillity of the Mountain will be secured by their firm and prompt execution of the Sultan's commands.

I am, &c.
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 8 in No. 57.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 7.)

(Extract.)

Beyroul, March 2, 1845.

MY late communications have shown that the reference of the matter of the Government to the Porte had increased the hopes and given fresh activity to the intrigues of the Shehabs; that the clergy had been particularly active in their behalf; and that I feared that both the Austrian and French Agents or their Governments still secretly favoured the pretension of the deposed family. Catholic ascendancy being the motive of action I suppose of Austria; French influence that of France.

I regret that time and fresh occurrences confirm these suppositions.

In proof of this I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency copies of two secret reports of a trustworthy person, who happening to be in the house of the family of Djezini in the town of Djezin, and pretending to be asleep, heard the arrangement of the plan detailed in them.

Djezin at Deir-el-Kamar is the worst place in the mixed districts, in fact it has become more disaffected and Shehabite than Deir-el-Kamar. The family of Djezini attempted to murder two Christians who wished to serve the Druze Sheikh Said Djablat, cutting off two fingers of one and wounding and leaving the other for dead.

This family and their town have distinguished themselves also by other acts of political violence and lawlessness.

This is the town to which I earnestly and repeatedly begged the two Pashas to march an overwhelming force and arrest malefactors.

Their Excellencies neither did the one nor the other. I regret to say that the Russian Consul-General gave the influence of his opinion against me. I regret it the more because the adoption of my advice would in itself I feel assured have carried the question of the Government, and silenced the opposition of the Maronites, who generally talk very much and do very little.

The Bishop Joseph el-Djezini is a near relation of the family of Djezini and a native of Djezin. He is rich, intriguing, French, and a partisan of the Shehabs.

Your Excellency will see that these two reports implicate both him and the Maronite Patriarch, for the people begged him to come to Djezin for the avowed purpose of organizing them militarily—a singular occupation for a Bishop to undertake, and as singular that a Patriarch should countenance it.

I regret to say that the secret reports have received most ample confirmation.

In proof of it I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency a copy of a report from the Vice-Consul at Sidon.

Your Excellency will see by it that the same people who went to invite the Bishop some time back to come to Djezin, went out on the 23rd ultimo from Sidon to receive him, having gone to that town from Djezin for that purpose; moreover that M. Conti, the French Vice-Consul at Sidon, who the other day had nearly involved the Christians and Druzes in civil war by giving false information, went out accompanied by notorious agitators and his janissary officially to receive Bishop Joseph.

It must be allowed that the occupations of the paid French Vice-Consul at Sidon are as novel and as un-Consular as those of the prelate are un-Christian.

Another report of the 26th ultimo informs me that Bishop Joseph, accompanied by the Djezin people, has left Sidon for Djezin.

Our Vice-Consul has arrived in Beyroul and he informs me that Nasif Djezin, the leading agitator, and a relative of Bishop Joseph, admitted to him that the Bishop had been invited to Djezin for the purpose stated above.

In elucidation of the state of feeling of the mixed Christians I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency a copy of one of the circulars of the Christians of Deir-el-Kamar to the mixed Christians of the district of Shehar.

Your Excellency will see that it is said therein that there are no more excuses for want of money for the purchase of arms and ammunition.

That money has been distributed lately by the Maronite Patriarch and clergy there is no doubt.

M. d'Adelbourg, on my mentioning the subject to him, at once stated that as he was going on leave to Vienna he had requested the Patriarch to close the accounts for the large sum of 15,000 which Austria had given to his Eminence to be distributed by his Eminence to the poor.

I have no doubt that M. d'Adelbourg's intentions were perfectly correct, but the fact is that the money was given in many instances to the leading agitators for distribution, and applied by them to the purchase of arms and ammunition. There is also a report, which the French Consul denies, that France caused 800 purses to be distributed as charity amongst the Maronites, and 400 amongst the poorer Shehabs. A large portion of the subscriptions sent from Austria and France were applied formerly for the expenses of the civil war against the Druzes.

With two such misapplications of what is called charity I think that it would be too much to ask were the Porte to request that the Turkish Government should be consulted before foreign Governments give their subjects large foreign monies.

I have now just heard, the 5th March, from a Christian of Deir-el-Kamar, that France sent lately a large sum to the Maronite Patriarch of which his Eminence assigned a part to the poor of Deir-el-Kamar and to other parts of the mixed districts the scene of the civil war. This person states that the share of 80,000 piastres for Deir-el-Kamar found its way into the agitation fund of Deir-el-Kamar and is the sum which I have already reported as forming that fund.

No. 58.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received April 4.)

(No. 68.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, March 20, 1845.

IT would seem that my colleagues in the affairs of Mount Lebanon have no intention of returning a formal answer to the last memorandum addressed to us on that subject by Chekib Effendi, nor do I myself see any sufficient reason for adopting a different course.

The French Chargé d'Affaires informed me yesterday that he viewed the last communication in the same light as the preceding one, and that he considered his Court entirely free to adopt any opinion that might appear to it most advisable upon the subject.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 59.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 36.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, April 3, 1845.

I HAVE to acquaint your Excellency that Her Majesty's Government entirely approve of the course which you have taken with respect to the affairs of Mount Lebanon as reported in your despatch No. 51 of the 6th of March.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN

(No. 111.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 3, 1845.

THE last despatches which I have received from Colonel Rose present a very unsatisfactory picture of the state of affairs in Mount Lebanon. No steps had been taken in execution of the Porte's conclusive instructions, and the spirit of animosity continued to run high between the adverse parties.

I have therefore addressed myself once more confidentially to the Turkish Ministers admonishing them of the danger to which they expose the empire, in one of its most vulnerable points, by so much vacillation and delay, and urging the necessity of giving orders for the immediate execution of the measures previously adopted. For your Lordship's more complete information I have the honour to enclose herewith a memorandum of the points which I directed M Pisan to press more especially upon the consideration of Chekib Effendi. It is principally founded on the information transmitted to me by Colonel Rose.

Chakib Effendi has declined giving positive orders in the proposed sense to the Pasha at Beyrouth, alleging that the Pasha does not possess the necessary knowledge of local details; but he has engaged to recommend my suggestions to them in strong terms; and I understand from his Excellency that the new Pasha of Sidon has sent a reinforcement of troops to the station of Deir-el-Kamar.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) **STRATFORD CANNING.**

Inclosure in No. 60.

Memorandum for M. Pugh

Pera, April 24, 1845.

M. PISANI will communicate what follows to Chekub Effendi as the summary of those remarks and suggestions which I pressed upon his Excellency's attention at our interview of the 2nd instant.

1. That the Pashas at Beyrout have need of further instructions to accelerate the execution of the last.
2. That the presence of troops at certain military stations in Mount Lebanon is necessary to maintain quiet during the execution of the instructions.
3. That certain individuals charged with the commission of crimes, particularly at the village of Abbaye, should no longer be allowed to go at large and unpunished.
4. That if it be desirable to content the Maronites, it is at least of equal importance to content the Druses also.
5. That it is ~~not~~ to be ~~non-explicit~~ ^{implied} at the Porte's engagement to maintain the local privileges, by pointing out that the general authority in the mixed districts is to be exercised as of old by the Mookatajdjis, but through the channel of the Vakeels in what concerns that part of the population which profess the same religion as themselves.
6. That the Vakeels have no authority but that of a judicial kind, whether civil or criminal, or both, or only as to differences of higher importance, it is desirable that the Porte should declare distinctly to the Pashas.
7. It is essential that the Mookatajdjis of both religions should be maintained as hitherto in the exercise of their magisterial and police authority, as distinct from judicial functions.

(No. 117.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 17, 1845.

THE latest advices from Syria, dated the 4th instant, present a most melancholy picture of the state of affairs in Mount Lebanon. The flames of civil war had burst out afresh; crimes of the deepest dye had been committed with impunity; conflicts between armed bodies of men had taken place with considerable loss of life; murder, pillage and conflagration, were raging in several parts of the Mountain. Worse than all this, the Turkish authorities are openly accused of having acted with premeditated hesitation and duplicity, in some instances promoting the progress of disorder by the slowness and inadequacy of the means employed for its prevention, and in others actually stimulating to the perpetration of crime those whom they were commissioned to restrain. To crown all, it was in the midst of so many revolting incidents that the Captain Pasha took his departure.

Concerning that under such circumstances there could be no difference of opinion among the Representatives of the Five Powers, I proposed a meeting for the purpose of comparing our respective despatches from Syria, and giving a character of unanimity to any step which we might each think it advisable to take at the Porte. In adopting this course I did but anticipate the intentions of the French Ambassador.

[illegible]

Repeated endeavours to remove these objections in a degree sufficient to admit of our making an identical representation to the Porte having failed, there was no resource but for each to draw up a separate address in the customary style.

approach to uniformity as the divergence of opinions would allow

Of the instruction which I propose to send in for communication to 'Ebrakib Effendi, a copy is herewith inclosed, and I venture to hope that it will meet with the approbation of Her Majesty's Government. It has been framed under circumstances which, in proportion to the critical state of affairs in Syria, and its serious importance, demonstrate the justness of my former repugnance to entering into conference with the other Representatives upon that subject while our existing instructions remain unmodified. If any consideration could have prevailed to overrule objections similar to those maintained by the Russian Envoy, it would have been found in the actual sufferings of the population of Mount Lebanon, and in the all-but-proved duplicity of the Turkish authorities. The whole question of Syria, and of the Eastern question, was for a doubt been submitted to your Lordship by Colonel Rose, and I cannot conscientiously pass them in review without declaring my conviction that unless the Porte be brought to a sense of its obligations to the Allied Powers, and a declaration of the sentiments and intentions of the Allied Powers, conveyed under the authority of special and uniform instructions to their Representatives here, our labours will be in vain, and the restoration of tranquility in Mount Lebanon on any basis but that of an immediate Turkish administration, will eventually become impossible. It cannot be necessary for me to trouble your Lordship with a repetition of trans-

actions covering a period of more than three years and already so amply reported, but I am greatly mistaken if your Lordship does not recognise in the policy of the Porte, as it has been manifested both here and in Syria, enough to warrant and confirm the suspicions so explicitly avowed by Colonel Rose.

I shall myself embrace the earliest opportunity to communicate to Cheik Effendi the most prominent passages of the correspondence which I have lately received from that officer, and to press the adoption of those particular measures which may best contribute to the improvement of affairs in Syria; but with every sentiment of deference, I repeat my firm persuasion that the Allied Powers can no longer safely abstain from displaying an immediate interest in the settlement of those affairs.

I am, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 61.

Sir Stratford Canning to M. Frederic Pisani.

Monsieur,

Péra de Constantinople, le 18 Mai, 1845.

J'AI appris du Consul-Général de Sa Majesté en Syrie que la guerre civile venait encore d'y éclater. Cette déplorable nouvelle étant confirmée par les notions directes arrivées à la Sublime Porte, je n'hésite pas à déclarer aux Ministres de Sa Hautesse la profonde douleur que m'ont causé les événements dont le Liban est en ce moment le théâtre. Je m'en fais d'autant plus un devoir que mes collègues les Représentans d'Autriche, de France, de Prusse et de Russie, avec qui je me suis réuni à cette occasion, partagent sans exception le même sentiment. Un résultat si opposé à celui qu'on avait tout droit d'attendre, et non moins affligeant pour la Porte que pour ses sujets, ne manquera pas de produire une impression des plus pénibles sur ma Cour qui devait compter sur l'introduction des mesures destinées à consolider la paix de la Montagne, et notamment des districts à population mixte. Je ne saurais cacher combien il me paraît fâcheux qu'une époque aussi critique eût été choisie pour le départ du Capitan Pacha dont la présence avait surtout pour objet d'empêcher les troubles et d'en imposer à leurs auteurs. Il est également fâcheux d'observer avec quelle hésitation inexplicable les instructions de la Porte semblent avoir reçu leur application, avec quelle impunité les nombreux crimes, précurseurs de l'explosion de la guerre civile, et les actes de violence perpétrés par les tribus des Connaks sur l'insuffisance et la lenteur des mesures militaires adoptées pour la répression des désordres, ont été traités par les autorités locales de Beyrouth.

En présence de pareils faits la Sublime Porte comprendra que mon premier devoir est de lui rappeler les efforts constants des trois dernières années, et l'urgente obligation qui existe pour elle de donner sans retard une complète exécution aux mesures nécessaires pour mettre un terme à une situation dont la gravité n'échappera pas plus à ses propres réflexions qu'à la vigilante sollicitude des Cours Alliées.

Vous voudrez bien déposer la présente instruction dans les mains de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Signé) STRATFORD CANNING

No. 62

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 118. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 17, 1845.

REFERRING to the last paragraph of my ostensible despatch of this date concerning the views of M. de Montebello, I think it my duty to bring under your Lordship's notice the accompanying copies of Colonel Rose's confidential despatches to me numbered 35 and 38, together with their respective inclosures. I am always anxious to spare your Lordship's time but in the present instance a knowledge of the facts stated to me by

Colonel Rose, and the suspicions deliberately entertained by him on substantive grounds may be justly deemed of paramount importance in deciding upon the course to be pursued with respect to Syria. I further inclose herewith a copy of the reply addressed to the Consuls at Beyrouth by the new Pasha of Sidon. The tone of zeal and sincerity which pervades this document must be allowed to stand in singular contrast with the recall of Assad Pasha and the departure of the Turkish High Admiral at so critical a juncture, to say nothing of the many previous marks of a deceitful policy exhibited partly by them and partly by the Porte itself.

With respect to the French Consul I am bound in justice to state that the language and, as far as I know, the conduct of Monsieur de Bourqueney, since his return from Paris, has not in the slightest degree betrayed any appearance of sympathy with the proceedings and views attributed to the former by Colonel Rose.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 62.

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Most Confidential.)

Sir,

Beyrouth, April 29, 1846.

I REGRET to have to announce to your Excellency a fresh proof of the treacherous and unprincipled policy of the Turkish Government as regards the Christians and Druses and the engagements and promises which the Porte has made to Great Britain to govern the Syrians justly and well.

On the 29th instant an emsary, a Druse Akhal, brought me a letter from a Druse Sheik of influence, which stated that the bearer of it, would give me information.

The Akhal then drew a deplorable picture of the state of that part of the Druse country from which he came, stating that the series of continued murders, which had commenced with the assassination of the Druse of Kefer-beem by the Christians of Deir-el-Kamar, had caused such intimidation that public security had entirely disappeared; that the ignorant of both sects, Christians and Druses, now only thought of shedding blood to-day in order to avenge the blood shed yesterday; that the roads were intercepted by assassins, and that the inhabitants instead of attending to agriculture, or their silk crops, remained in dread shut up in their houses; that in consequence trade had ceased and provisions had risen double and treble in price.

The Akhal added that he had yet to state openly to them that they received money from France, and that they taunted the Druses by saying to them, "The English although they are your friends don't assist you as the French do us."

My informant a very intelligent man proceeded to tell me with that caution which characterizes the Druses, that the miserable state of affairs must be attributed to the Turkish Government, which with a sufficiency of power and plenty of troops, had never yet punished an assassin.

I saw that the Druse had something on his mind, and therefore prolonged the conversation till he told me in a low whisper that he wished to communicate to me something of great importance, but that he must entreat me to consider it as a strict secret, because if it were divulged his life and the lives of his chiefs would be sacrificed.

The Akhal then informed me that about fifteen days ago Sheik Hamood Abuneked, the father of my informant, went to pay his respects to Drouk Pasha at Ibtideen, when in the course of conversation on the state of the country the Pasha said to the Sheik "Do not make soldiers," which means do not make regular open war, "but when you can do it secretly," which means make a little war, assassinate.

I must observe that this advice was addressed by the Pasha in command of the Turkish troops in the Lebanon, who was sent to Deir-el-Kamar, and I believe expressly, to preserve the peace between Christians and Druses, to one of

those wicked Druse chiefs who distinguished himself by the atrocities which he committed in 1842 in Deir-el-Kamar.

My informant is the son of that person, but he himself is one of the quietest and most respectable of the Druse chiefs; he is one of those who were included in Mr. Consul Wood's amnesty.

Your Excellency will see with as much pain as I do, that all my grave suspicions and statements as to the wicked designs of the Turkish authorities to create strife and collusion between the sects in order to further their political views have come to pass, and the information which I now detail is a clear and most painful confirmation of them.

Notwithstanding your Excellency's frequent and my incessant representations, the Porte's officers have with unflinching obstinacy persisted in not arresting those who have offended against public order and peace—the cold-blooded murderer is allowed all the freedom and privileges of an honest man and the wicked and lawless, seeing that for three years and upwards the Turkish Government take no steps for punishing murder and other offences, manage freely at the passions engendered by party hatred and revenge.

The consequence is that the animosity and mistrust which previously existed between Christians and Druses have been increased to such a point, and that the intimidation is so great that neither Christians nor Druses in the mixed districts move from their homes without being armed and in numbers sufficient to protect themselves.

The appearance of these armed bodies causes of course apprehension and counter preparations on the part of those through whose villages the bodies pass.

Finding that my strenuous and unceasing exhortations to the authorities to arrest the murderers were unavailing, I addressed to Hafiz and Wazirah Pashas a letter, a copy of which I have the honour to inclose to your Excellency.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) HUGH ROSE

Inclosure 2 in No. 62

Colonel Rose to Wagirah Pasha.

Excellence,

Beyroul, le 29 Avril, 1845.

DES individus Chrétiens assassinent fréquemment et ouvertement des individus Druses, des individus Druses assassinent fréquemment et ouvertement des individus Chrétiens.

Ces atrocités se commettent généralement dans les grands chemins et souvent sous les yeux des troupes impériales.

Les chemins sont infestés par ces assassins, la sécurité n'existe plus, le commerce est paralysé, une intimidation générale règne, les denrées sont devenues extrêmement chères.

Les amis de l'ordre et de la tranquillité se plaignent hautement de cet état de choses et réclament à grands cris la protection du Gouvernement.

Jusqu'à ce jour les autorités Ottomanes n'ont pu rien faire, et n'ont pu s'empêcher d'écouter les bruits contre le meurtre. Tout le monde est mécontent de la constitution que le Gouvernement a le devoir et les moyens de porter remède à un état de choses qui compromet la tranquillité du pays.

Il est d'une importance de voir intactes l'autorité du Sultan et la bonne foi de son Gouvernement, le rendant indispensable que je fasse cette communication amicale à votre Excellence.

Veuillez agréer, &c.,
(Signé) HUGH ROSE

Inclosure 3 in No. 62

Colonel Rose to Sir Stratford Canning.

Confidential.

Sir,

Beyroul, May 4, 1845.

I HAVE the honour to state to your Excellency that I observed latterly that the French Consul had taken an isolated line of proceedings, and one marked with unusual partiality for the Christian party in the unfortunate conflict which is going on.

Moreover this gentleman had written an official letter to the Pashas before the outbreak, in which he let them see that he considered them guilty of partiality in favour of the Druses; adding as an instance of it that the authorities had sent troops to the villages in which there was a majority of Christians. This charge is not founded, for the fact is exactly the contrary as to two of the villages Moohiara, Sheik Said Djinblat's, and Abbays, mentioned by the French Consul to me.

The troops were sent there at the earnest request of the two Druse chiefs of those two places who feared civil war, and they are quartered on them at a great expense and inconvenience to them. And it was singular enough that the son of the Druse chief at Abbays came to me on the 30th ultimo to complain of the marked partiality of the Turkish Major in favour of the Maronite Emir. As to the other two villages, I have been informed that the troops have been by their presence the means of preventing civil war in these two places, which are the principal ones of the district. The Christians never asked for troops as the Druses did, and their not doing so is one of the proofs of their desire for war.

As I have had the honour to say, the distribution of troops was not at all such as I had advised, but it must in common fairness be remembered that with a due regard to military precaution it would require three or four times the force now here to occupy all the places. I do not mean to say that the Turkish authorities have not a partiality for the Druses, but as regards the stationing of the troops they are blameless. There are troops in Annoutour, an exclusively Druse village.

It reflected that the undefined pretension put forth by France to protect the Christians, and the probability that circumstances might bring that pretension into action, would cause an increase of the difference between the Turkish authorities and the French Consul. I thought therefore it would be most desirable to make him leave his isolated and hazardous position and associate him in a common and safer course with his colleagues, thus causing his pretensions and displeasure to merge in a common action. This gentleman had no right to write off as he had done to the Pashas.

But other reasons made it absolutely necessary that the Consuls should take a collective step. A destructive civil war was spreading through the mixed districts. I felt a conviction that the Turkish Government had intentionally brought on this deplorable state of affairs for their own political views. My views now appear to feel convinced of what I had felt certain for so long.

It was most desirable therefore for the sake of policy and humanity, to present to the Turkish authorities an united opinion in the present state of affairs.

I therefore invited my colleagues to join me in a collective note, which would show to the Turkish authorities that our Governments were united in opinion in desiring a solution of the question of this Government, in which they had taken a common part and above all manifest our united and earnest wish for the termination of the horrors of civil war, placing on the Turkish authorities a responsibility of which they have wished to divest themselves, by asserting that the Powers and their servants were divided in opinion, a most unprincipled and groundless excuse for their treacherous conduct.

All my colleagues have not entertained the same serious fears which I have done as to the occurrence of the melancholy events which are now in operation, or rather they have not the same desire as I have to take steps to prevent their accomplishment. Not very long ago my French colleague declined to urge the

tranquillity, and the execution of the arrangement previously announced. I did not conceal from him the painful suspicions excited by the conduct of the Turkish authorities, and the obligation which now rested upon the Porte of removing those suspicions by its own direct and efficient interference applied to the punishment of the murderer, to the repression of the violent, and to the security of the peaceable and the loyal. Chekib Effendi acquiesced in my remarks and suggestions; he did not attempt to justify the Turkish officers employed in Syria, and intimated no small degree of dissatisfaction at the unreasonable departure of the Captain Pasha.

I am now in possession of the Porte's reply to the representations addressed to it a few days ago by my colleagues and myself. A translation of this document is herewith inclosed; and your Lordship will perceive that its tenour agrees with the language held by the Turkish Minister to me. Instructions corresponding with its purport were yesterday dispatched overland to Syria by express.

I am unwilling to entertain mistrust of the Porte's sincerity in the face of so many assurances; but after what has occurred it is impossible not to look with anxiety to the result. Affairs are now in that state to which the Turkish authorities are accused of having sought to bring them; and it remains to be seen whether the efforts of the Porte will be exerted to redeem the pledge so often given, or to realize the scheme of encroachment which it has been long suspected of cherishing. At all events there is no reason to apprehend that harm or inconvenience would arise from a decided declaration on the part of the Five Powers. A knowledge of their unwavering perseverance in the same view would confirm the Turkish Ministers in a course of good faith, if such be the one they have adopted, and deter them from persisting in the opposite line of conduct, if their proceedings should unhappily be found to take that direction.

I think it my duty to submit and even to recommend this suggestion to your Lordship's most serious attention.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 63.

Chekib Effendi to Sir Stratford Canning.

(Traduction.)

Le 21 Mai, 1845.

LA Sublime Porte a pris connaissance du contenu de l'instruction qui a été mise entre les mains du premier interprète de votre Ambassade, portant ce qui suit.

La nature des nouveaux événements qui viennent de se passer dans le Mont Liban a causé un sentiment très pénible; on a mis beaucoup de lenteur dans l'exécution des instructions de la Sublime Porte; avant la guerre civile qui se fait à présent, il a été commis des crimes qui n'ont pas été suivis des punitions nécessaires; les mesures militaires qui ont été prises n'étaient pas suffisantes; et vous demandez qu'on mette sans délai et complètement à exécution les mesures nécessaires pour la cessation d'un état aussi déplorable.

Comme l'exposé contenu dans le papier dont copies ont été transmises dernièrement tant à votre Excellence qu'à vos collègues et qui, a été envoyé par son Excellence le Mouchir de Saida aux Consuls en réponse à la note qu'ils lui avaient remise collectivement sur les événements qui viennent de se passer, peut servir de réponse à vos représentations, et comme votre Excellence connaît les efforts sincères et l'incessante diligence de la Sublime Porte pour l'arrangement définitif de cette question du Mont Liban, et pour obtenir par là le repos et la tranquillité des populations, il n'est pas besoin d'entrer en détail sur cette matière.

La Sublime Porte ayant envoyé aux autorités locales les nouvelles mesures arrêtées en dernier lieu de concert avec votre Excellence et vos collègues, lesquelles ont été approuvées et appréciées par les Cabinets des Cinq Grandes Puissances, avec des instructions positives afin d'assurer la tranquillité de la Montagne, le Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse regardait cette question comme

entièrement arrangée, et il espérait n'être plus dans le cas de la discuter, et il désirait voir d'un moment à l'autre les heureux effets des mesures arrêtées, lorsqu'il a appris avec un grand et véritable regret les causes et les circonstances qui ont amené les événements dont il s'agit.

C'est un devoir inhérent à la souveraineté de la Sublime Porte de faire promptement cesser les désordres survenus, et de rétablir en même temps la tranquillité. Les mesures et les principes que son Excellence le Mouchir a jugé à-propos d'adopter, qu'il a porté à la connaissance des Consuls par l'écrit qui renfermait la réponse, et qu'il a transmis par dépêche à la Sublime Porte, étant, d'après votre manière de voir ici même, conforme à l'état de la question, ils ont été entièrement approuvés. Si une faction quelconque parmi les habitants de la Montagne s'oppose à la décision de la Sublime Porte, alors comme on ne pourra plus voir cette opposition avec un oeil d'indulgence, que cette opposition devra être considérée comme une rébellion, qu'il faudra faire toutes espèces d'efforts pour assurer le succès de l'arrangement arrêté, et que le rapport de son Excellence le Mouchir fait voir que les troupes qu'on a fait venir et marcher de la Montagne suffisent pour punir les opposans, on a jugé à-propos de donner à son Excellence une permission précise de mettre en pratique ce que l'état des choses exige; et en conséquence une dépêche écrite en termes énergiques lui a été expédiée. Cette dépêche lui ordonne de se hâter de mettre pleinement à exécution la décision qui a été donnée de concert, en employant tels moyens que les principes ci-dessus exigent d'après les localités.

Par tous ces détails votre Excellence verra que la Sublime Porte ne reculera devant aucun moyen propre à mettre à exécution sa décision, et dès-lors elle vaudra bien écrire en conséquence à votre Canna en réponse.

Je saisis, &c.,
(Signé) CHEKIB.

Le 14 Djemazi-ul-Evel, 1261.

No. 64.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 5.)

(No. 125.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, May 22, 1845.

REFERRING to my last despatch on the subject of Mount Lebanon, I have the honour to transmit herewith for your Lordship's information copies of the instructions addressed on the 28th instant by the Representatives of Austria, France, Prussia, and Russia to their respective interpreters, for communication to the Turkish Minister for Foreign Affairs.

These instructions are similar in their general purport to those which I addressed under the same date to M. Pisani, and of which a copy has already been forwarded to your Lordship in my despatch No 117.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure 1 in No. 64.

Count Stürmer to the Baron de Testa.

Constantinople, 18 Mai, 1845.

DE déplorable événements viennent d'avoir lieu dans le Liban; la guerre civile y exerce ses fureurs, et déjà un bon nombre des sujets de Sa Hautesse en ont été victimes. Cependant les mesures jugées nécessaires et annoncées aux Représentans des Cinq Grandes Puissances comme définitivement arrêtées par la Sublime Porte pour le maintien et la consolidation de la paix dans la Montagne, y étaient connues depuis un mois, mais rien encore avait été fait pour en assurer l'exécution. Les autorités Ottomannes semblaient au contraire avoir pris à tâche de rester dans une inaction dont les désordres et les crimes mêmes qui se succédaient sous leurs yeux, et qu'ils laissaient impunis, ne purent les

tirer. La circonstance la plus frappante a été le départ de la flotte Ottomane au seul moment où sa présence aurait pu être de quelque utilité. A peine le Capoudan Pacha avait-il reçu la nouvelle de l'explosion de la guerre civile, qu'il mit à la voile pour retourner à Constantinople.

Que penser de ces faits sur lesquels les rapports consulaires parvenus à MM. mes collègues et à moi sont malheureusement unanimes ?

L'Europe, dont les regards depuis plusieurs années n'ont cessé de se tourner vers la Syrie, les jugera sévèrement, et mon auguste Cour comme tous les vrais amis de la Sublime Porte, en sera, je n'en doute pas, bien douloureusement affectée. Je crois, en attendant, prévenir ses intentions en vous chargeant, M. le Baron, à appeler dès aujourd'hui l'attention des Ministres de Sa Hautesse sur une situation dont la gravité ne saurait échapper à leur pénétration et qui réclame toute leur sollicitude. Des ordres péremptaires envoyés à Beyrouth avec la plus grande célérité possible et de nature à mettre un terme aux scènes de désolation auxquelles le Liban est en proie, pourront seuls arrêter le mal et éviter à la Sublime Porte des embarras et des complications incalculables.

Vous voudrez bien porter cette instruction mot pour mot à la connaissance de son Excellence M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et lui en laisser une copie.

(Signé) STURMER.

Inclosure 2 in No. 64.

The Baron de Bourqueney to M. Cor.

Monsieur,

Péra, 18 Mai, 1845.

A LA réception des lettres de Beyrouth du 6 Mai nous nous sommes réunis, MM. les Représentans d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de Prusse, de Russie, et moi, et nous nous sommes décidés à faire connaître sans retard à son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères de la Sublime Porte, la profonde douleur que nous ont causée les événements dont le Liban est en ce moment le théâtre.

Mes collègues et moi nous attendions le résultat des mesures destinées à ramener le calme dans les esprits, à consolider la paix de la Montagne, et nous avions le droit d'en croire l'exécution confiée à des Agens dont la conduite répondrait aux intentions itérativement exprimées par la Sublime Porte. Nos rapports sont unanimes sur l'explicable hésitation avec laquelle les instructions du Gouvernement de Sa Hautesse ont reçu leur application sur l'impunité des crimes isolés qui ont précédé dans la Montagne l'explosion de la guerre civile, malgré les avis réitérés du Corps Consulaire aux autorités locales de Beyrouth sur l'insuffisance et la lenteur des mesures militaires adoptées pour la prévention et la répression des désordres.

Du 30 Avril au 4 Mai le meurtre et l'incendie ont désolé plusieurs districts du Liban, et les progrès du mal allaient croissant le jour même où le Capitain Pacha en est éloigné à la tête des forces placées sous ses ordres pour le maintien du repos de ces provinces.

En présence de pareils faits la Sublime Porte comprendra que notre premier devoir est de lui rappeler nos efforts constants des trois dernières années, et de lui demander sans retard la complète exécution des mesures nécessaires pour mettre un terme à une situation dont la gravité n'échappera pas plus à ses propres réflexions qu'à la vigilante sollicitude de nos Cabinets.

Vous voudrez bien déposer la présente instruction dans les mains de son Excellence le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères.

(Signé) BOURQUENEY

Inclosure 3 in No. 64.

M. Le Coq to M. Stiepowich.

Péra, ce 18 Mai, 1845.

LE Consul-Général du Roi à Beyrouth m'a informé des déplorables événements dont le Liban a été le théâtre depuis la fin d'Avril. Les mêmes données sont parvenues à MM. les Représentans d'Autriche, de la Grande Bretagne, de la France, et de la Russie. MM. mes collègues et moi nous sommes persuadés que la Sublime Porte partagera l'impression infiniment pénible qu'a produite sur nous la crise violente qui éclate précisément au moment où les Puissances Chrétiennes étaient fondées à croire assuré l'effet des efforts constants consacrés depuis plusieurs années à la consolidation de la paix intérieure et de la tranquillité des populations de la Montagne. Je ne saurais douter que mon auguste Cour n'apprenne avec une vive peine ces tristes événements. La Sublime Porte comprendra elle-même qu'on sera disposé à juger sévèrement la conduite des autorités locales auxquelles était confiée l'exécution des mesures salutaires destinées à prévenir un nouveau conflit entre les populations, et la tâche de réprimer à temps les désordres. Il est notamment fâcheux que la nouvelle crise coïncide avec le départ de l'escadre de Sa Hautesse, dont la présence avait surtout pour objet d'empêcher les troubles et d'en imposer à leurs auteurs.

Je crois remplir un devoir en signalant ces circonstances à la Sublime Porte, et en appelant son attention sur l'urgente nécessité de prendre les mesures les plus efficaces pour mettre un terme à un état de choses dont la gravité n'échappera pas plus à ses propres réflexions qu'à la sollicitude éclairée des Cours Chrétiennes.

Veuillez, &c.,
(Signé) LE COQ.

Inclosure 4 in No. 64.

M. de Titow to Prince Handjery.

1^{er} Mai, 1845.

NOTRE Consul-Général à Beyrouth m'annonce que la guerre civile a éclaté dans le Liban. Cette déplorable nouvelle est confirmée par les notions directes arrivées à la Sublime Porte. Les amis de la Turquie ne sauraient être indifférens aux maux qui affligent les sujets de Sa Hautesse, et compromettent l'autorité Ottomane dans une province qui à juste titre fixe l'intérêt spécial des Cours Chrétiennes. Je croirais de mon côté mal répondre aux sentimens de l'Empereur mon maître, si je déguisais le pénible effet que cet événement produira sur le Cabinet Impérial au moment où l'on espérait apprendre l'introduction des mesures destinées à consolider la paix de la Montagne et notamment les districts à population mixte. Il est fâcheux qu'une époque aussi critique eût été choisie pour le départ de l'escadre de Sa Hautesse, dont la présence avait surtout pour objet d'empêcher les troubles et d'en imposer à leurs auteurs. Après cela comment ne pas se demander si les autorités locales ont fait tout ce qui était en leur pouvoir afin de réprimer le désordre, de punir les nombreux délits qui en ont été le prélude, de réaliser enfin les intentions paternelles de Sa Hautesse en activant le paiement des indemnités et le reste des mesures salutaires annoncées au pays ? Pour atteindre ces résultats et justifier par le témoignage des faits les explications et les assurances offertes aux Consuls par le Mouchir de Snida, la Sublime Porte comprendra sans doute l'urgente nécessité d'adopter sans retard les dispositions les plus efficaces et les plus propres à mettre un terme à une situation dont nul ne saurait méconnaître la gravité.

Veuillez, mon Prince, exprimer de ma part cette conviction à M. le Ministre des Affaires Etrangères, et laisser entre les mains de son Excellence une copie de la présente instruction.

(Signé) TITOW.

No. 65.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 65.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 6, 1845.

THE present state of affairs in Syria has occasioned much concern to Her Majesty's Government; but they have been glad to perceive by a report from Colonel Rose dated the 20th of last month, that measures were in progress for arresting the course of the hostilities which had broken out between the Druses and the Maronites.

Until the result of those measures is known, and a clearer insight obtained into the various circumstances which have led to and attended these distressing transactions, Her Majesty's Government are unable to arrive at any certain conclusion as to the course which it may be proper to follow, with the view of obviating if possible a renewal of civil war in the Lebanon districts.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 66.

The Earl of Aberdeen to Sir Stratford Canning.

(No. 66.)

Sir,

Foreign Office, June 20, 1845.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 134 of 19th December, 1843, I have to request your Excellency to inform me whether the Porte has caused the parties whose property was destroyed at Djouni during the operations of 1840 to be indemnified for the losses which they sustained; and if this has not been done, your Excellency will not fail strongly to press upon the Turkish Government the expectation of that of Her Majesty, that the Porte will immediately redeem its engagements in that respect.

I am, &c.,

(Signed) ABERDEEN.

No. 67.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 141.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 3, 1845.

ON the evening of the 30th ultimo the old ex-Emir Beshir of Mount Lebanon, with his family and principal adherents, embarked for Asia Minor, under secret and sudden orders from the Porte. I did not hear of the occurrence till the following day, and it is only this morning that I have succeeded in obtaining a confidential explanation of it from Chekib Effendi. The motive alleged by his Excellency is the Porte's conviction that the Emir had been engaged in promoting and countenancing intrigues for the re-establishment of his family in Syria, and that his removal from Constantinople under present circumstances will greatly contribute to the restoration of tranquillity in that province.

From this opinion I have no reasons to withhold my acquiescence; but considerations of humanity have induced me to remind the Turkish Minister that the employment of any unnecessary rigour against the exiled family would be discreditable to the Porte, and not fail to draw upon her the animadversions of Europe.

Chekib Effendi assured me that the Emir and his family would not be exposed to any ill-usage or other restraint than what was necessary for

their removal to a place where they could not easily correspond with their partisans in Syria.

The place appointed for their residence is Viranshehr in Asia Minor, about half way between Nicomedia and Tocat.

I have some reason to think that Halil Pasha was the adviser of their removal from Constantinople.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 68.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received June 25.)

(No. 142.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 3, 1845.

THE latest advices from Beyrout and Damascus exhibit a most afflicting picture of the state of affairs in Mount Lebanon. A letter from Mr. Moore of the 12th ultimo describes Colonel Rose as having gone into the Mountain the night before, in consequence of the melancholy accounts which he had received from the Maronite village of Abbaye. The principal points to which my attention has been again directed are the want of reinforcements, the necessity of adopting decisive measures for the suppression of civil war, and the insufficiency of the Pasha's proceedings; to the intrigues of Shehab partisans, of French, of Austrian agents, of the Maronite clergy, and also to the weakness or perfidy of the Turkish authorities, is plainly ascribed the renewal of those deplorable scenes which the chief Powers of Christendom united to terminate more than three years ago.

I have thought it my duty to place all the prominent parts of Colonel Rose's statement under the eyes of the Turkish Government, and I have not even concealed his suspicions of the bad faith and sinister designs entertained by the Porte itself. I have also repeated my earnest advice that every practicable efficient measure should be adopted without loss of time for the restoration of tranquillity in Syria.

Chekib Effendi has replied to my communication by a repetition of his former assurances, and he has shown no disposition whatever to defend the conduct of the Ottoman authorities in Syria. He affirms moreover that the Pasha of that province has troops enough at his disposal by this time, and that the Porte is firmly resolved to put down if possible the present disorders.

Under these circumstances I abstain from proposing another conference to my colleagues, and I limit my exertions to the more useful object of keeping the Turkish Ministers steady to the engagements which they have contracted.

I cannot but apprehend that a more positive declaration of the joint intention of the Five Powers will be necessary to rescue Mount Lebanon permanently from the evils which it is now suffering, and the dangers to which it is immediately exposed.

I have, &c.,

(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

No. 69.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 147.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 17, 1845.

THE latest despatches which I have received from Beyrout, under date of the 3rd instant, announced the conclusion of certain articles of peace between the contending parties in Mount Lebanon. The elements of disorder were nevertheless so imperfectly dispersed, and the prospect of further collision

appeared so threatening that I was anxious to leave nothing untried which might encourage the Porte to execute her often-repeated promises with vigour and good faith, or which might add another chance to those already obtained in favour of a lasting pacification. With this view I have again communicated with my colleagues, and also with the Turkish Ministers. The former agreed with me in thinking that the only measure which remained to be suggested in the present state of affairs was a mutual faculty of emigration from the mixed districts, accompanied if possible with such facilities as the Sultan alone could be expected to afford. From Chekib Effendi I learn, in answer to my communications upon the subject, that the Porte does not object in principle to the proposed expedient; but that being apprehensive on the one side that the adoption of it at this moment might tend rather to complicate the present difficulties than to promote their solution, and hoping on the other that the next advices from Syria will announce the complete settlement of the disturbed country, it was thought better to wait until a clearer view of the whole state of the question could be obtained. In the meantime I am assured by Chekib Effendi that positive orders have been sent to the Pasha of Sidon directing him to carry into effect the arrangement already concerted, even by military coercion if necessary, and to occupy for the present such positions in Mount Lebanon as may be necessary to maintain the tranquillity thereby restored.

For your Lordship's more complete information I inclose herewith a copy of the message which I sent to Chekib Effendi after communicating with my colleagues, and I presume from what passed that they have expressed sentiments of the same purport to his Excellency.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.

Inclosure in No. 69.

Message from Sir Stratford Canning to Chekib Effendi.

Pera, June 16, 1845.

WHATEVER may have been the cause of the late afflicting events in Mount Lebanon, their natural consequence is an increase of animosity between the Maronites and the Druses. In considering by what means, in addition to those already adopted, the restoration of tranquillity might be confirmed, it has occurred to me and also to my colleagues, that the measure most likely to promote that object would be mutual emigration from the mixed districts encouraged by suitable regulations and facilities. If a total separation of the two races could not be effected by a voluntary process of this kind, the mere idea of being at liberty and of having the means of passing from an adverse to a friendly jurisdiction would naturally tend to tranquillize both parties. It is manifestly the interest no less than the duty of the Sublime Porte to make every exertion and reasonable sacrifice necessary to terminate the present afflicting dissensions, with respect to which its own authorities are by no means free from reproach. Even in point of expense the funds required to facilitate emigration would find a set off in the reduction of the military force now employed in the Mountain and its neighbourhood.

These and other more obvious considerations will I trust have their due weight with the Ottoman Council.

No. 70.

Sir Stratford Canning to the Earl of Aberdeen.—(Received July 3.)

(No. 148. Confidential.)

My Lord,

Constantinople, June 17, 1845.

HAVING received information that Murad, the Archbishop of Latakia, is likely to be a candidate for the office of Maronite Patriarch, now vacant by the decease of the late incumbent, I have drawn the attention of Chekib Effendi confidentially to the inconveniences which would infallibly result from the appointment of a prelate unfortunately distinguished for his party zeal and spirit of intrigue to a position of so much influence in Mount Lebanon. To your Lordship, who cannot have forgotten the conduct of that individual when he addressed your Lordship from Paris, it will be satisfactory to know that the Ottoman Minister, adopting my impressions, has already informed those who are interested in the affairs of the Maronite church, that the election of Archbishop Murad, if contemplated, will be opposed by the Porte.

I have, &c.,
(Signed) STRATFORD CANNING.